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A HANDBOOK OF HOSPITALITY FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY

By FLORENCE HOWE HALL

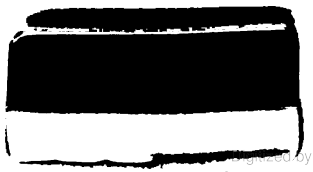
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WILLIAM B. CAIRNS COLLECTION
OF
AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS

1650-1920

WILLIAM B. CAIRNS
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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A HANDBOOK
OF
HOSPITALITY
FOR
TOWN AND COUNTRY

BY
FLORENCE HOWE HALL
Author of "The Correct Thing," "Social Customs," etc.



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HANDBOOK OF HOSPITALITY

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Introduction

HOSPITALITY is one of the earliest virtues of civilization and one of the latest as well. Leaders of the Peace Movement recognize international hospitality as an important factor in promoting "Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men."

Its form must change with the development of mankind, but the essential spirit remains the same. In a simple state of society such as existed in the Middle Ages, the rich man entertained all comers at his table. By gradual steps the private host changed into the landlord of the hotel, and hospitality began to take on a more intellectual aspect. Among the most highly civilized nations of modern Europe, the material part of the entertainment is considered of much less im-

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portance than agreeable conversation, the happy exchange of sentiments and ideas. When Olcott, one of the sages of Concord, said, " I accuse T. Carlyle of inhospitality to my thought," he spoke in the true modern spirit.

We of the Anglo-Saxon race still believe in the slaying of the fatted calf, to which there is surely no objection, if our gatherings around the social board have the intellectual tone of the Greek symposia. We should do well to copy the best features of these wonderful banquets, with their feast of reason and flow of soul, rather than the gluttonous suppers of the Romans in the days of the Empire.

In the sudden development of enormous wealth in our own country, there is some danger that we shall be dazzled by the pomp and display of the very rich and that we shall lose sight of the true nature of hospitality. It does not consist in gorgeous show and ceremony, although these may sometimes form its accompaniments. It consists in the sharing with our brother the enjoyment of our possessions, whether these are material

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or spiritual. The duty of hospitality is a part of the Christian duty of giving to others.

The host who takes his friends for a spin over beautiful country roads, in his comfortable motor-car, exercises a delightful and æsthetic form of twentieth century hospitality. We do not all possess automobiles, but we can all share our thoughts and aspirations with our friends and give them a warm welcome to our fireside.

The aim of this little book is to show forth, so far as may be, the true spirit of hospitality and to give hints for its exercise in accordance with present day customs. The author sincerely hopes it may prove of assistance to the hostess, whether she live in town or in the country.

FLORENCE HOWE HALL.

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The Handbook of Hospitality

FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY

PART I

CHAPTER I

THE COUNTRY HOSTESS AND HER PROBLEMS



NY woman who has lived for any length of time in the country is sadly familiar with the problems confronting the country hostess. Men and things tend to concentrate in cities. There seems to be some mysterious attraction which constantly draws everything within its reach, cooks, fresh eggs, the very fish of the sea, to the great centres of trade and commerce.

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In providing for her guests, nay, often in securing these, the country hostess must fight a series of battles royal with this great centripetal force, which drags everything from her grasp.

She will soon grow discouraged unless she remembers that there is another law which works in an opposite direction. Just as the cities cannot exist by themselves, and must draw their supplies from the surrounding country, so the minds and souls of men would starve, did they not from time to time "Return to Nature." This centrifugal force works most strongly, of course, in the heated months, when stone pavements and arid wastes of brick seem so odious in the towns, and even the rulers of the kitchen prefer the seaside or the mountains "For a time."

The country is beautiful however, even in winter to those who know and love it. The almost unbearably rapid pace of our city life, and the imitation of our British brethren, have combined to bring people back to rural localities, at all times of the year. They are beginning to find "The quiet of woods and meadows" the best tonic

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for tired nerves. The country hostess should take comfort in the thought that Fashion is coming her way. She should remember also that when she invites her city friends to spend a week-end with her, she often does them a real kindness.

The servant problem is a very serious one to the dwellers in small communities. Yet even this offers advantages to those who look at things in the right way. The woman who finds it difficult to procure competent help, and impossible to prevent their sudden departure, learns to rely more on herself and less on the angel of the kitchen. If she is wise, she will make herself familiar with household arts. She will take lessons in cooking, from some notable neighbor if no training school is at hand. She will even learn how to kindle and how to dump the kitchen fire. Instead of a helpless being, absolutely dependent on the caprices of foreign mercenaries, she will become a capable and truly independent house-mistress, who can herself look after the comfort and well-being of her guests whenever this is necessary.

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The same spirit of self-reliance should lead her to train a daughter, or even a young son, to wait on the table. I have seen a boy of twelve perform this service very acceptably. His mother explained the situation to us, which indeed required no explanation beyond telling us who he was. The country hostess and her family, who "Know how to do things," can meet their guests with the serenity born of knowledge of their own powers, — provided always they do not attempt to do too much! Half the troubles of rural hospitality arise from the mistaken efforts of the hosts to copy the ways and the entertainments of dwellers in cities. This is not desirable and not possible, for any save very rich people.

As we pass out of the smoky and dusty town, and go farther and farther into the country, we leave behind us more and more the elaborate products of civilization and return nearer and nearer to Great Mother Nature. From her we learn the important lesson of simplicity. We feel by instinct the appropriateness of simple dress as we walk abroad on country roads; and the

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same simplicity, quiet and dignified, should characterize country life in all its phases. This alone gives us the feeling of repose and rest which is especially delightful to those who have come from the bustle and rush of a great town.

Simple things need to be excellent, and the rural hostess should make the necessary effort to provide for her guests the best products of the country-side — fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs, chickens that have never darkened the door of the cold-storage warehouse, cream and milk that have never travelled by train. It sometimes requires forethought and contrivance to procure these, but they are always appreciated and are infinitely more appropriate to the countryside than the elaborate dishes which adorn city feasts.

Our country hostess holds other trump cards in her hand. Fresh and invigorating air, the beauties of natural scenery, quiet and repose, all these she should be able to offer her friends. I am afraid however that, like the rest of mankind, she is too often occupied with thinking of the difficulties un-

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der which she labors, rather than of the advantages that she possesses.

We all know it is not easy to heat a country house in the depth of winter, and our hostess may be so anxious to keep her friends warm as to forget the necessity of having her dwelling thoroughly ventilated. Here again she will do better if she does not attempt to follow city methods too closely. Steam heat and hot-air furnaces may be sufficient in a closely-built block, but in a detached wooden house they should be supplemented by open fireplaces, those best of ventilators. Nothing is so cheerful and cosy as a blazing wood fire on a winter evening.

The country hostess who remembers the advantages of her situation, who occupies herself with trying to give her guests all the pleasant things the neighborhood and her way of life afford, will have a cheerful and robust attitude of mind. This will be infinitely more agreeable to her friends than the apologetic tone induced by dwelling on one's own shortcomings or those of the surroundings. "Who excuses himself, accuses

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himself," and a hostess should rarely apologize. In order to make her guests enjoy the country, she must herself be fond of it. Perhaps she has been transplanted from the city and would prefer to return there if she could; this need not prevent her from getting all the pleasure possible out of her country residence, and passing it on to others. She should study the beauties and resources of her neighborhood, find out the pretty walks and drives, ascertain what points of interest there are within walking, driving or "motoring" distance. She should have a quick eye too, to perceive the things that may interest people coming from a distance. The village saw-mill, which she passes every day, is to her only a saw-mill on the river's brink, a very familiar and uninteresting object. But to her young friends from the city it may appear an enchanted palace of delight. The whirr of the revolving saws, the swift rushing up and down of the little platforms, the drawing in of the big logs floating in the river below — all is novel and mystical to them.

In order to be a perfect rural hostess, one

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must not only love the country, but must also have out-of-door tastes and occupations which guests may share. No matter how large and finely appointed a villa we possess, our friends will hardly feel satisfied unless a part at least of their entertainment is under the blue vault of heaven. Whether we offer them horses to ride or drive, motor cars, open-air sports, or only tea in the arbor and a stroll through the garden, we should if possible take them out into the open. When an Englishman visits a friend in the country, he always asks "To see the Estate," and we Americans sometimes laugh and blush as we show him about the few acres with which we have done so little! The present craze for formal and other gardens is changing all this, and it is taking people into the open air. It is now the fashion to serve meals, especially breakfast and afternoon tea, on the lawn or the verandah. Our country hostess should certainly give her friends the pleasure of repasts out of doors, weather permitting. This is a little trouble but it pays. Better two courses served thus than half a dozen in a stuffy dining-room

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on a hot evening. Every one has a good appetite in the open air and the green trees and blue sky make the simplest meal a pleasure.

"But I do not like to eat breakfast under the eyes of my neighbor," says Mrs. Suburban. Certainly not, have a privet or honeysuckle hedge around your premises, if the neighborhood is not educated up to the point of a walled garden.

A foolish wave of expansiveness swept over our country a few years ago, causing householders to take down their fences and throw their grounds absolutely open to the eyes of all beholders, and to the feet of all wandering dogs and other stray animals. This fenceless and unprotected condition is now taken so much as a matter of course in many localities, that real indignation is shown if a householder possessing a love of privacy and of outdoor life ventures to surround his own grounds with a wall, thus following a custom which is well-nigh universal in France and England. A gentleman who did so, in a town less than thirty miles from New York, endeavored to mitigate his of-

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fence by planting ivy on the outside of his brick walls. This was speedily trampled under foot by his irate neighbors, who considered the enclosure in the light of a personal insult.

If privacy is not only allowable but proper in one's dwelling house, why not also in one's grounds? We do not make the walls of our houses of glass, nor even of paper like the Japanese. If you wish to be sure of making your toilet without supervision, in the land of the Mikado, you must take the precaution of tying together with string the little paper sliding screens or partitions that divide you from your neighbors. The love of privacy belongs to a higher civilization; and the people, who at first blush object to walls and enclosures, will reconsider when it is suggested to them that the purpose of these is to enable their neighbors to make the garden a place to live and work in.

The country hostess makes a great mistake when she invites her neighbors to her house only on rare and ceremonious occasions. Nothing is pleasanter than to drop

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in informally and take a meal with a friend in a quiet way. Monotony is a danger of rural life, and these little friendly visitings make an agreeable change, without overtaxing the strength or the purse of the hostess. Guest and host are probably both very busy women, full of household cares. They will return to these, refreshed in spirit, after a pleasant chat over the supper table. Too often however, a rural hostess is so anxious to do her duty as a good housewife, and to set before her guests an elaborate display of eatables and drinkables, that she exhausts herself in making preparations, and is too weary to enjoy the society of her friends, or to make them have a good time.

In a word, her efforts at hospitality are so strenuous that they defeat themselves. She has not yet learned the charm of simplicity.

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CHAPTER II

PICNICS AND COUNTRY FROLICS

NOTHING is more delightful than a country frolic, provided time and place are suitable and the guests persons of the right sort. Good spirits, good temper, imagination and a sense of humor are essentials to the success of such an occasion. We cannot expect that a whole company will be thus happily endowed, but there should be enough fun-loving and good-natured men and women to act as a leaven for the rest. It is important to have at least one humorist, who can see the amusing side even of a misfortune, and make the rest laugh.

I remember a family picnic where everybody was justly incensed at the stupidity of the Irish cook. This faithful woman, having received orders to make the sand-

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wiches "half strawberry jam and half cold beef," complied literally with the directions as she understood them. Now nothing is more odious than beef and jam combined in a single sandwich, unless it be the same ingredients happily mingled in several dozen. We tried conscientiously to eat them, but it was impossible. Every one looked sad or indignant until the humorist saw the absurdity of the situation and broke into peals of laughter. Soon we were all laughing merrily!

The imaginative man is as necessary as the humorist. He must supply the touch of poetry which makes a ride in a hay-rigging romantic and delightful, while to the prosaic soul a springless wagon and a load of straw convey no meaning, unless it be a sense of discomfort and a fear of dampness. Fortunately young people are usually full of both fun and romance, if they have not been spoiled by the too great luxury of our modern city life.

In the country where cultivating the soil is the business of life, men are brought into close touch with the earth and realize their

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dependence upon its bounty. Hence rural festivals from the earliest days have gathered about the fruitful phases of Nature — beginning with Easter, the glorious resurrection from the death of Winter, and ending with the Harvest in its many varieties. Country frolics celebrating the great events of the farmer's calendar, have the sanction of old tradition, as well as the inestimable advantage of fitness. They are in reality the festivals of labor, rejoicings in the triumph of man's industry coöperating with Nature's bounty. Hence the idea of cheerful work, in which all should join, followed by play, underlies them. This idea should if possible be maintained, modified to suit modern tastes, since our generation does not love manual labor. Yet we all instinctively feel that at a country merry-making every one should make himself useful. That is a part of the fun. The lazy and purely ornamental person, who is incapable of doing anything, always seems out of place at a picnic. All need not work; but all should be ready to work if it should be necessary.

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We are beginning to understand in America the beauty and value of old associations. Fortunate is the town or village which continues to celebrate rural festivities, established by old tradition! It is wise to keep them up, preserving all the touches of local color, and by no means omitting the old-fashioned country refreshments. Unfortunately doughnuts and pie require the vigorous digestion that accompanies a life of bodily activity, so that for persons of sedentary habits it is necessary to add some other simple items to the bill of fare.

If we import forms of merry-making, we should be careful to have them suitable to the season and to the natural tendencies of our people. Never shall I forget the inclement May-days of my childhood, and the little Irish children shivering in their thin white dresses and crowns of paper flowers, on Boston Common. The first of May is doubtless balmy and delightful in the Mother Country, but in New England it finds Winter still lingering in the lap of Spring. In our Northern states those who follow the beautiful old custom of going a-Maying

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must wait for a good day, and carry plenty of wraps. Many a delightful picnic did we have as children in that merrie month. The most poetic ended by the seaside, and we cast garlands into the sea, wondering to whom the waves would carry them. Then we returned home, bringing in our hands the delicate spring wild flowers, and in our minds pictures of shore and woodland beauty, never to be forgotten.

Even in snow-bound Maine the pretty custom of hanging May-baskets still persists. Dainty paper baskets, decorated with artificial flowers and containing candy, fruit or other goodies, are hung on the handle of the door. The giver rings the bell, then runs away and hides, but not too well, for old tradition prescribes that he must be chased, brought back and hospitably entertained. According to the more primitive and romantic method, a kiss is exchanged.

The uncertainty of the weather is always the great obstacle in the path of the country hostess, who is planning some out-of-door frolic. The telephone has now come to her assistance, even in remote spots, so that she

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may invite her guests or postpone the affair, at short notice. A friendly barn or a sheltered verandah, sometimes proves a pleasant refuge from a sudden thundershower. A hospitable country gentleman had colored panes of glass set around his parlor windows, so that his friends, looking through these, could behold the tender green of Spring, the yellow tones of Midsummer, or the red hues of Autumn, even when skies were dull and rain pouring down.

The passing of the scythe has divested haying time of some of its old picturesqueness, but the scent of the freshly cut grass and the beauty of the fields still remain. Truly delightful is a supper party in the meadows, where the new-mown hay is piled in little fragrant cocks. The sun sinking in the west, perhaps a slender new moon hanging timidly in the sky, like a bashful maiden, the frogs whistling in the marshes, the delicious odor of the fresh hay, all combine to charm the senses. To drink lemonade through the slender straws of drying grass is a part of the pleasant programme. A pitcher of the old-time beverage — molasses,

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ginger and water — should certainly be provided, as it is supposed to be very satisfying to thirst. Doughnuts and pie or sandwiches and cake, may complete the simple supper. A good story-teller is a pleasant addition to a hay-stack party, although he must not feel hurt if the younger guests stroll away in couples. A small hay-cock makes a very comfortable back for two persons to lean against.

If the guests are muscular as well as merry, they may like to whet their appetite for supper and help the farmer, by tossing the hay and piling it up into the traditional little green mounds, while the sun sinks in the west. After the sweet-smelling crop has been gathered in, and while it is still fresh and fragrant, a barn-party is in order. There is a mysterious charm about a barn, enhanced by the sense of dangers remembered from childish days. Does not one recollect Thomas Blank who lost the ends of his fingers in the hay-cutter, and Susy Nameless who *almost* slid on the tines of a pitchfork lying in wait for her? Tales of adventure seem highly appropriate in

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this setting and as the shadows fall, all may adjourn to the hay-mow and listen to thrilling ghost stories.

The simple country supper should include new milk, warm from the cow. The company sit about on milking stools, piles of hay or other improvised seats. Sometimes supper is served in the house and a procession is made afterward to the hay-mow, each guest carrying a lighted lantern.

Husking bees still survive in some parts of our country. Youths and maidens still look for the red ears among the corn, amid much blushing and laughter, if they turn up in the hands of the right couple. Cider and apples taste very good after the exercise of stripping the husks from the corn.

With dances in the barn every one is familiar. If a village fiddler can be procured, one who will call the figures for old-fashioned country dances, stamping his foot to mark the time, it adds greatly to the fun.

The Harvest Home is one of the prettiest and most easily arranged of rural festivals. It may begin with a short religious service of Thanksgiving, the church being

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decorated with fruit, ripe grain, flowers and vegetables. A midday lunch under the trees follows and gives the country housewives a chance to display their skill in bread- and cake-making. If the weather is at all cool, hot coffee makes an excellent addition to the feast.

To most of us one great charm of the picnic in its endless varieties consists in its simplicity. Yet we must beware of confusing simplicity with carelessness. No entertainment can be successful unless somebody gives thought and attention to it. A suitable place must be selected, the baskets must be well packed, no necessary article must be forgotten, the food must be good of its kind. Some other form of amusement beside eating and drinking, even though it is a very simple one, should be provided for the guests; and this requires a little forethought on somebody's part. If there is an artist present, very effective tableaux can be arranged with little trouble, the greenery forming a lovely background. Scenes from the old Greek Mythology are especially adapted to such a setting, while a few sheets

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and pillow-cases will do wonders in reproducing classic draperies. Perhaps amateur actors who can give a scene from "As you like it," or some other sylvan drama, are among the guests. A screen of woven boughs stretched between two trees, may separate the stage proper from the tiring-room.

Impromptu charades are excellent for out-of-door occasions, the improvised scenery and odd stage properties adding to the amusement. If some one has brought a guitar, a banjo or a mandolin, popular songs make a pleasant programme, although singing in the open air is said to be bad for the voice. The fancy dances now so much in vogue, are never prettier than on the greensward.

One of the most charming meetings of the Newport Town and Country Club was a Botanical Picnic at Paradise Rocks. The guests searched diligently for wild flowers, and after luncheon a Professor of Botany dissected and explained the flora of the locality.

A pretty fancy for people who are fond

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of poetry is to prepare, with the aid of "Bartlett," a number of short quotations. These are written on slips of paper which are cut in two in such a way as to separate the lines. A member of the company pins these to the different trees, after the fashion of Orlando. Each guest takes down a slip and tries to find his or her affinity, namely the person who has the other half of the quotation.

A list of country merry-makings would be incomplete, did it not include the Rhode Island clam-bake, of undying fame and popularity. The great drawback to it is the length of time required to prepare the repast — clams cannot be gathered in a moment and heating the stones red-hot is a slow process. When the guests have admired the great mound of bivalves, decorated with circles of chicken, corn and lobster, when they have seen the wet seaweed put on, and the whole covered by a great rubber blanket, the initiated know by sad experience that a long waiting is still before them. Games, songs, stories, the plaiting of oak garlands for the table, some form

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of entertainment is necessary to occupy the company until the feast is ready.

I have thus attempted to sketch in outline some country merry-makings, not with the idea of exhausting the subject, but rather of furnishing hints for the assistance of the young hostess. If she is ingenious, she will evolve many improvements and additions. The informality of such occasions makes them very elastic, and pleasant novelties may readily be combined with or substituted for the good old ways, if people grow tired of these and want a change.

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CHAPTER III

COUNTRY WEDDINGS



OW lovely is the closing scene in "As You Like It," where the true lovers plight their troth "Under the greenwood tree!" The Temple of Nature is surely the most beautiful and the most fitting for the performance of the marriage ceremony: — we strive to imitate it, so far as we can, by filling the churches with greens and flowers, making a counterfeit presentment of Paradise. For Paradise, as all the world knows, was in a garden, and no poet would dream of locating it in the streets of a crowded city. Happy the bride whose marriage takes place on the smooth greensward, under the high-arching trees of a lovely country-place, whether it be

"In spring-time, the only pretty ring-time"

or in the full glory of midsummer.

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The perennial interest and romance attaching to a wedding are sufficient to make beautiful any marriage ceremony which unites two people who truly love each other, even though it take place in the Mayor's office. But the country bride has an immense advantage in her surroundings.

In the city, weddings have come to be stereotyped affairs and are too often occasions of a display to which many persons seriously object. The bride is the centre of a gorgeous pageant produced by the joint efforts of florist, dress-maker, milliner and caterer. In the country there is more simplicity, a greater opportunity for the exercise of individual taste, and greater friendliness. There is also a certain delicate, intangible atmosphere of home, which too often evaporates in the crowded haunts of men.

The hands of loving friends may twine the decorations for the village church or for the house if it is to be a home wedding, weaving a bit of sentiment, a touch of poetry into their work, which we must not expect to find in the stereotyped labors of the hired florist.

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Now that we are recovering from the foolish old superstition about the month of May, the bride may stand in a bower of freshly-gathered apple blossoms, or of roses from the home garden if June be the month chosen. In the Autumn beautiful effects are obtained from the golden and crimson leaves mingled with the bright hues of the late Fall flowers. Even bluff Winter contributes its share of home-grown decorations — cedar, pine and holly in our cold North, laurel, smilax and live oak from our bright Southland.

In the country, the neighbors are for the most part friends. Many of them have seen the bride grow up and blossom into womanhood. They take a real interest in her and if this is sometimes expressed too freely, if uncalled-for advice or criticism is offered, the intent is usually kindly.

Surely there is friendliness in cities also, but there our neighbors are too much engrossed with the rush and hurry of life, to pay much attention to a bride not belonging to their own special circle.

Hence young women of wealth and high social position often prefer to have the wed-

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ding take place at the family home in the country, rather than at the city dwelling. Indeed a fair bride of my acquaintance carried this sentiment so far that she entrusted the making of her bridal dress to the village dress-maker. The latter was so pleased and proud that she fairly outdid herself!

A wedding affords a country hostess a great opportunity to display her hospitality, for there are almost always friends from a distance to be entertained. If the parents or near relatives of the groom are among these, she will receive them beneath her own roof, if possible; or she will arrange for their pleasant accommodation at the houses of friends and neighbors. Indeed her own dwelling and those of all connected with her will make themselves highly elastic, and will take in all the guests who can in any way be bestowed.

Where nothing better can be done, she will engage rooms for relatives or friends at the village hotel or at a suitable boarding house. Even in this case, she can show her hospitable intent by sending one of the family or a

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friend to meet them at the station; if the friend possess a carriage or an automobile, so much the better. To be thus personally conducted to lodgings, by somebody interested in one's comfort, who will act as a friendly go-between, bespeaking the favor of the landlord, is much more agreeable than to go alone to an unknown hostelry in a strange city. A bunch of flowers placed beforehand in the room, may breathe a fragrant welcome and show the thoughtfulness of the absent host.

A dinner or supper, on the evening before the wedding, is sometimes given at the house of the bride's parents or other relatives. It is a pleasant attention to the guests staying elsewhere, and shows the desire of the hostess and her family to extend all the hospitality which circumstances will permit.

Does some one ask whether the mother of the bride should pay for the entertainment of friends staying at a hotel? If she has invited them to come to the town or village as her guests, she will do so; otherwise it is not obligatory. A wedding necessarily involves much expense, and it is not good

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economic policy to make it so costly that only people of wealth can afford to invite their friends.

Sometimes the town or village is so near a large city that guests can go from there and return on the same day. In this case, people of wealth often charter a train or extra cars. An engraved invitation takes the place of the usual railroad ticket, and guests should be careful to send acceptances or regrets, in order that the hosts may know how many cars to provide.

It would seem needless to mention this, had not experience shown that people are very thoughtless in such matters.

If the day prove pleasant, the country hostess may expect that many guests will appear, even though they have sent no answer. Vehicles of some sort should meet people from out-of-town invited in this way, and if the procession include a great variety of these, it will be so much the merrier. Automobiles, omnibuses, barges, carriages of all sorts, all the resources of the neighborhood may be impressed. Even where no railroad tickets are sent and no special cars

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provided, conveyances are often sent to meet the guests at the train. But if the day is fair, the house or church near the station, and the hosts people of moderate means, it will be sufficient to provide carriages only for elderly people, or for those who might find walking difficult or unpleasant. These questions each hostess must decide for herself. The important thing is to show the hospitable intent, and every one should do so in accordance with his means. It is neither right nor in good taste to impoverish ourselves in attempting a hospitality which we cannot afford. The country host should always make sure that some vehicles are at the station, even if he does not pay for them.

Where many guests from out of town are expected, the ceremony usually takes place in the daytime. If the hour fixed is at midday, a substantial collation should be served to those guests invited to the house. To country housewives giving themselves much anxiety about croquettes, pâtés, and other elaborate dishes, it should be said that nothing is better — and nothing more popular with male guests — than good substantial

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roast beef. At a wedding-breakfast served lately at the country-house of a lady of wealth and position, the bill-of-fare consisted of bouillon in cups, hot roast beef with carrots and green pease, lettuce salad with French dressing, ice-cream, cake, coffee and candies — ending with cigars for the gentlemen and a box of wedding cake laid at each place. Champagne also was served, but it is not now so customary as it was formerly to give wine at a wedding. The bride and groom with their nearest relatives sat at a large oval table, the rest of the guests having their places at small tables in the adjoining rooms or on the wide verandah.

This mode of service calls for a number of waiters. A simpler and easier method is to have the refreshments dispensed from a large central table or a buffet, the guests sitting or standing about, the gentlemen waiting upon the ladies, the daughters of the house perhaps assisting. If the day is fine and the grounds large enough to ensure privacy, the collation may be served out-of-doors. A tent is sometimes put up, by way of a dining-room.

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Since customs linger in the country after they have been given up in the city, it is pretty to keep up some of the old fashions, such as having the bride cut the cake, and the bridesmaids search diligently for a ring in the fragments. Toasts or speeches belong properly to the formal wedding-breakfast, where all are seated within reach of the speaker's voice. This English custom does not seem to find much favor with us, although we are a nation of speakers.

Where toasts form a part of the programme, the father of the groom or the best man usually proposes the health of the bride and groom, the father of the bride responding. It seems cruel to ask the groom to answer this toast, yet he is sometimes expected to do so, and proposes the health of the bridesmaids, the best man replying for them. At weddings where there is no speech-making, the best man may simply propose the health of the newly-married couple. All the company stand, glass in hand, pledging them to long life and happiness. In these days of Temperance reform, the drinking of toasts is often purely figurative in our coun-

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try, since it is considered unlucky to drink a person's health in water, and many people take nothing stronger.

At a formal wedding breakfast, the bride and groom head the procession to the dining-room; the bride's father with the groom's mother comes next, followed by the groom's father with the bride's mother, the best man with the first bridesmaid, then the other bridesmaids with the ushers. Or the officiating clergyman may take in the bride's mother, and they may come last as the hostess does at an ordinary dinner.

The bride and groom sit at the head of the table, her mother at the foot, with the groom's father and the clergyman on either side.

The evening is usually the time selected for a wedding in a small community, because every one is busy in the daytime. This gives the hostess the whole day for her preparations, and as all the guests will have had their evening meal, she need only serve light refreshments. Oysters, salads and ice-cream are always popular, but it is perfectly proper to serve only cake and wine or some form of

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fruit-sherbet or coffee, in the house of a person of strict Temperance principles. Something will depend on the means and position of the host, as well as on the number of guests invited. Where many people are asked, the hostess will make an effort to supply a more bountiful entertainment; but for a few intimate friends this is not necessary.

If she or one of her friends, chooses to show her skill by providing some special dish, this will add to the pleasure of the guests. The stereotyped suppers everywhere given in cities are chosen because it is easier to give them — and because experience has shown that people like them. For this reason our country hostess should be careful to provide some of the regulation dishes, as every one does not like novelties.

The pleasant old fashion of dancing at a wedding seems appropriate to the country. The bride leads with the groom or with the best man, but she takes part only in a quadrille or in some quiet dance. After she has left, a Virginia reel makes a merry ending to the festivities of the evening.

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CHAPTER IV

HOUSE-PARTIES, GUESTS AND GUEST-CHAMBERS

IT is easier for a hostess of experience to entertain half a dozen persons than one or two, because the guests amuse each other — provided always that the house is sufficiently large and well-appointed to make all comfortable. This is the principle of the house-party, but it contains two big "ifs."

If you are a novice at housekeeping and unaccustomed to having people stay overnight, it will be much more prudent to commence with one or two guests. There are many advantages in thus making a simple and modest beginning. If something goes wrong, if the milkman does not arrive in time for breakfast or the rolls are left too long in the oven, the friend under your roof

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should readily excuse the accidents which will happen as every housekeeper knows. But if you have been so ambitious as to invite five or six people to stay with you, you will be blamed for undertaking too much.

The second "if" is as important as the first. It is better not to attempt a house-party, unless you have enough room at your command to make all the guests comfortable. This is one reason of the superiority of English to American hospitality. It is not strange that British men and women should entertain better than we do, because after the practice and experience of centuries, they have reduced hospitality to an exact system. An English host knows therefore, just what to do for his guest, and he does it. He does not worry constantly lest he should have omitted something, and long practice gives him ease. When one visits a friend in England, one is conscious of a constant thoughtfulness for one's welfare, yet all is so quietly done that there is no sense of being "fussed over" or of being over-entertained.

It adds greatly to the guest's peace of mind if she is invited for a definite period,

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a week, a fortnight or a week-end, as the case may be. Some hostesses say vaguely, "a few days," meaning two, four, or possibly ten! Said an Englishwoman of the old school, to an American friend who was urging her to prolong her visit, "Stay longer than a week, on a first visit at a gentleman's house? Never, my dear — I could not think of doing such a thing!"

There was a quaint and excellent old rule in this country, formulated at a time when people drove in their own carriages to see friends living at a distance. This limited the visit to two nights. The day of arrival was called Guest Day, the second, Rest Day, because it was necessary to remain long enough to rest the horses. The third was Pressed Day, when the visitors were urged or pressed to remain longer, but firmly refused to do so.

The host or some member of his family should if possible meet the guest at the station and escort her to the house, or send a conveyance for her. One should always ask a friend arriving from a distance, whether she will have some light refreshment, unless

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the meal hour is close at hand. She should be shown to her apartment with little delay.

Our young housekeeper should make sure that the spare room and its bedding have all been thoroughly well-aired and that the temperature is neither too warm nor too cold. A thermometer should be a part of the furniture and in the winter there should be some means of heating and of cooling the room. Among the many guest-chambers which I have occupied, two supremely uncomfortable ones arise in my memory. In the first there was a large air-tight stove burning fiercely close to my bed; in the second there was no heat save that given by the flame of a small kerosene stove, utterly inadequate to cope with the icy air of a large room in a country house, with the mercury below zero!

At a third house, where I was entertained with great kindness and with lavish hospitality, my bedroom pitcher contained no water. This has happened to me more than once. It should therefore be clearly stated that in every guest chamber there should be a washstand and its furnishings, including

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soap, unless a private bath room is attached to the apartment. To be obliged to wander about the hall, in a strange house, every time you wish to wash your hands, is extremely disagreeable. The pitcher should be filled at night as well as in the morning and a can of hot water should be brought to the door before breakfast and before dinner. It is also extremely desirable to arrange matters so that the guest can have a daily " tub," either in her own apartment or in the bath room. Many people now have this habit and it is a real privation to them to lose the daily plunge. A maid servant or some member of the family, usually draws the water where it is expected to have the guest use the family bath room, summoning her when all is in readiness. A supply of fresh towels should always be at hand, with a bath mat on the floor.

Our hostess should take a peep into the bureau drawers and the closets, to see whether any member of the family or a previous guest has carelessly left any of her belongings there, and to make sure that the expected visitor has at least *one* bureau

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drawer and part of a closet, in which to put her things. Of course a whole closet is better. Spare rooms that are only occasionally used are often neglected by servants. It is not quite pleasant for a lady to find a half-smoked cigar or other débris on her dressing table. The furniture of the room should include a basket for waste paper and a small receptacle of some sort placed on the bureau, for burnt matches and other odds and ends. Pins are indispensable and hairpins very desirable. Oh, the sad desolation of those highly decorative pincushions in guest chambers, hard as Pharaoh's heart, and utterly devoid of pins! The other little adjuncts of the dressing-table, such as button-hook, clothes brush, scissors and nail file, are also appreciated by the feminine guest, who may have forgotten some of her own supplies.

There should also be a light-stand beside the bed, provided with a candle and matches. Electric lights are excellent in their way, but nothing gives the guest such a sense of security as the presence of a box of matches. A guest-chamber to be really complete must contain some provision for rest in the day-

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time. To be confronted with a bed covered with lace and crowned by high stiff pillows, is rather depressing, where there is no couch in the room. A light robe or fancy blanket should also be provided for those who take an afternoon nap. Some thoughtful hostesses have a wrapper and soft shoes ready for the guest. A desk or a table with writing materials is now thought indispensable. A dainty suburban housekeeper of my acquaintance provides pencil and blotter to match the prevailing color of the room, together with baggage tags and a time table.

If there is a bedroom clock, its ticking should be of a subdued character and the striking attachment should not be wound up. The sound of cathedral chimes on your mantelpiece in the middle of the night is not exactly agreeable. A well-furnished workbasket is often found a convenience by the feminine visitor and a few good books tend to make the room attractive.

The guest should always find a pitcher or at least a glass of cold drinking water when she goes to her room at night. A tumbler of milk, a few crackers or some other light

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refreshment is often added. Pretty china sets intended expressly for this purpose can now be readily obtained. Many housekeepers remove the white spread for the night. The bed clothes should also be turned down, the night-dress, wrapper and soft shoes or slippers being neatly laid out.

It is always well to make some provision for the blacking of boots, although a thoughtful guest when staying with friends of moderate means will not leave her shoes outside her door, without first ascertaining whether it will inconvenience her friends to have this service performed for her.

It is always polite to have some one escort a stranger downstairs on her arrival, as she will hardly know where to go and will be afraid of intruding on the family privacy. Meals should be announced by knocking on the doors of those guests who are in their rooms, unless a bell is rung or as is now considered more elegant, a gong is sounded. A dressing bell ten or fifteen minutes before a meal is a great convenience.

So many persons prefer to breakfast in their rooms that it is well to offer a guest

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the opportunity of doing so, if the equipment of the household permits. In a suburban town, where the men of the family take early trains and breakfast is a hurried meal, it is often easier for the hostess to send a tray upstairs at her convenience, than to have her guest come down and be a victim to the inevitable haste, or to keep the dining table standing until a late hour of the morning. Such a tray need contain only a very simple repast — tea or coffee, eggs, a cereal or fruit, with bread and butter. This arrangement leaves the hostess and her friend both at liberty to spend the morning hours as they please. Hence a guest need not hesitate to accept the offer to send up her breakfast, if she has reason to suppose it will not inconvenience her hostess. Many of us, mindful of the early bird, prefer the old-fashioned American way of coming down to the meal, but it takes all sorts of people to make a world.

"Make yourself entirely at home."

"Do as you would in your own house."

These phrases are favorites with some people and are used with kind and hospit-

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able intention. They show us the good-will of the host, but they remind us of the impropriety, not to say impossibility, of behaving in another person's house exactly as we would in our own. If I should take my hostess at her word, if I should order her servants about or invite a friend to dinner, what an astonished woman she would be! No two households are run precisely alike, and the guest who has delicacy of feeling ascertains the rules of the house where she is staying, and tries to conform to them. The thoughtful hostess does not content herself with repeating these empty formulas — she endeavors to make her guests feel at home, and to give them opportunities for spending their time pleasantly.

This is the great advantage of the house-party, for a number of people entertain one another. The wise hostess suggests excursions or amusements, but she does not insist too much on the carrying out of her ideas. She offers an alternative, if possible, and allows her guests to make a choice. While she does not forget those staying beneath her roof, she does not give all her time to

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entertaining them (unless the visit is very short). A sensible guest prefers to arrange a part, at least, of her time every day, and dislikes very much to feel that she is a source of anxiety to her hostess. The latter provides with careful forethought for the pleasure and comfort of her visitors. As we have said she does not forget them, yet she should not feel it necessary to lay aside all her accustomed occupations and devote herself wholly to her friends. If she should attempt to do this, the visit would lose half its pleasure both for host and guest.

Our young housekeeper should arrange some amusement for the evening or allow her friends to do so. Alas! tastes differ so widely that the same things do not amuse everybody. Hence it is well that the programme should have variety where this is possible. While the present mania for bridge-whist continues, the hostess must expect that cards will occupy the entire evening, if her guests are devotees of the game. So popular has it become in certain circles that some knowledge of bridge-whist is an important accomplishment for a girl who

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wishes to be invited to the week-end parties now in vogue. As we have said elsewhere, a hostess should not allow gambling to be carried on beneath her roof. This bad custom is by no means so general in fashionable society as some novelists would lead us to suppose. Many women who move in the best social circles neither play for money themselves, nor permit others to do so in their houses.

Our hostess will not forget that cards are a terrible bore to some people, especially at midsummer. To be obliged to play whist on a hot summer evening is unpleasant to all save enthusiasts. The lady of the house tries to make every one have a good time — but she can only do her best. If she thinks the majority are satisfied, she will not interfere; but she will try to prevent the sacrifice of the company for the amusement of one or two selfish or thoughtless persons.

The Victor talking-machine is a valuable adjunct to the week-end party. A good instrument with the records of the best opera singers, now easily obtainable, the favorite waltzes and the latest thing from the vaude-

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ville, adds to the gayety of the company and gives very little trouble.

Motoring is a very popular amusement at all times of the day, especially where the roads are good. The host who lives by the riverside or at the seashore can easily provide many amusements for guests. There should be bath-houses for those who like a dip into fresh or salt water, and motor-boats, canoes, rowboats or seafaring craft of some sort for those who like and know how to use them. A careful host will not permit a tyro to undertake the management of that most treacherous of vessels, a little sailboat.

The great popularity of athletics enables the country hostess to offer her friends a variety of pleasures. Tennis continues to hold public favor, golf remains popular, croquet and archery have their votaries. Horseback riding, which was eclipsed for a time by the craze for motoring, is once more in vogue. Our modern belles can swim like fishes and ride like Scott's Di Vernon. Bowling has been revived of late and bowling alleys are now a feature of some country

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houses. Roller skating continues to be popular. A favorite amusement for the evening or indeed for any leisure moment, is the " broken picture " puzzles. The interest in these is so absorbing that learned professors in university towns have sat up half the night solving them, it is said. Table tennis furnishes another source of amusement popular with young people.

Occasionally a hostess is so fortunate as to have among her guests some one with a talent for amusing others and unselfish enough to take pleasure in doing so. Such a person is an invaluable " Hostess' assistant " and is always popular. In the country there is often a pleasant neighbor who can be counted on to run in and help entertain the guests — asking them to her house or perhaps getting up a sailing party or a picnic. Our young housekeeper will do well to form pleasant relations with others near her, making them her friends and allies. Each woman can then feel that she has some one to rely on, who will help her out at a pinch.

A hostess will be careful not to appear to

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hurry in any way the departure of her guests, but where she knows they propose to leave on the next day, she will inquire the night before what train they prefer to take, in order to make the necessary preparations. If the journey is to be a long one, involving the necessity of engaging sleeping-car or other special tickets in advance, the host should offer to do this in good season. While dining-cars make it less necessary than formerly to provide luncheon for a traveler, it is kind to offer to do this. Such a lunch should not be too bulky. It must be daintily prepared and should consist of sandwiches, fruit or other articles of food easy to eat without "mussiness."

It is eminently proper to speed the parting guest, but not to nag him. A nervous hostess sometimes hurries and flusters her friends, in a mistaken effort to help them get off. If one is told every moment "You will certainly miss the train if you don't hurry," one is very apt to lose the astral calm necessary in order to launch one's self and all one's belongings successfully on a long journey. The procrastinating person,

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who is not ready till the very last moment, and then expects to be driven to the station at top speed, is certainly a very trying guest. Our hostess will be careful not to show too much zeal in assisting her departure. For it must always be evident that we speed the parting guest, not because we wish to be rid of her presence, but because she herself prefers to go, having once decided to do so.

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CHAPTER V

UNEXPECTED VISITORS

NOW that the telephone and the telegraph have penetrated almost every part of the country-side, we are much less liable than of old to receive visits that are wholly unexpected. A considerate guest usually makes an effort to announce her coming. Unforeseen contingencies will arise however, making our friends start on sudden journeys; letters and messages are sometimes delayed.

A beautiful memory of one sudden arrival comes to my mind as I write. I was sleeping soundly on a summer morning, dreaming of the old French troubadours. Some one was singing under our windows, in the soft half-light of the early dawn, the praises of hospitality.

"L'Hospitalité — l'hospitalité!!"

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was the refrain, repeated over and over again. As the clear full voice rang in our ears, my sister and I gradually awoke from our sleep, to realize that we were not dreaming. There was but one person of our acquaintance romantic enough to announce his coming in this way. "Uncle Sam! Uncle Sam!" we exclaimed in delight and soon the beloved uncle, bringing always store of goodies for us children, was ushered into the house and made welcome.

I have less pleasant memories, to be sure, of sudden arrivals, when the same dear sister and I were awakened in the night by the news that a number of relations had arrived unexpectedly and our room must be vacated immediately. On one occasion the house was so crowded that my young brother was obliged to sleep on the piano! It was not a very comfortable bed certainly, but the fun we have all had in recalling his plight has far more than made up for any temporary inconvenience that he suffered.

On another inauspicious occasion a friend, well-known for her exceeding candor, drove out to dine with us in the country, on the

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chance of finding my Mother at home. At that time Rhode Island butchers called at rare intervals, bringing little except the meat of the native sheep. My Mother was greatly chagrined when her guest refused the proffered mutton, saying with great dignity, "My Grandfather X never could eat lamb and I never can!"

Fortunately there was a little cold chicken to save our reputation as housewives worthy the friendship of the stern X family.

If we live six miles from a lemon and remote from the all-pervasive trolley, let us remember that this very isolation makes the exercise of hospitality all the more imperative. In the city the traveler can go to a hotel, but in the country he is dependent on the kindness of friends or strangers. Hence the beautiful hospitality of which we read in our Old Testament and which is still practised in full measure by the Arabs of the desert, was and is a necessity of their situation. Without it travel in thinly settled regions would be impossible. As the stranger approaches he calls out, "Oh Master of the tent, a guest from God!" To

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which the Arab replies, "Be welcome, all will be easy!" Preparations for the entertainment of the guest on a liberal scale are then made, much as they were in the time of Abraham. Although he may be entirely unknown to his host, he and his horse are given comfortable quarters for the night and the best that the tent affords is set before them, all without money and without price. Yet we sometimes grumble when our own dear friends arrive at inconvenient hours. I am afraid we are growing selfish and lazy in this luxurious age!

If we mean to be truly hospitable and I think we all do, no matter how far our performance may fall short of our intentions, we must keep on hand some provision for the unexpected guest, especially if we live at a distance from the base of supplies. Home-made jams, jellies, pickles and canned fruits, the many varieties of fancy crackers and biscuits now easily obtainable, prunes, figs and other dried fruits, nuts, cheese, maccaroni, vegetables that will keep (in winter), ham, bacon, smoked beef and fish, any and all of

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these our rural housekeeper will find useful. She can fall back on canned goods as a last resort (provided they are of the very best), but as we all know, the recent agitation for pure food makes people look askance at articles put up in tin, or that have come out of cold storage.

"If thou hast much, give of thy goods; if thou hast little, give of thy heart," says an Arab rule of hospitality, very comforting to the housekeeper when her supplies run short. We of the Anglo-Saxon race, living in a cold climate, place altogether too much emphasis on food. Food is only a small part of hospitality. Man does not live by bread alone and we must all avoid paying too much attention to the material welfare of our guests and thus depriving both them and ourselves of the pleasures of the social intercourse which is their real object in coming to our houses. We do not go to see each other for the purpose of eating and drinking solely, nor yet of gazing upon handsome table furniture. We enjoy the good things of life when they come in our way, but we

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visit our friends because we want to see them, not because we are anxious to behold their best table-cloths and napkins.

Is it not often the suddenness of a guest's arrival and the consciousness that our house is not looking its best, which thus makes us over-anxious like Martha about many things? The tidy housekeeper whose rooms are always in good order, who keeps a supply of clean towels, bed and table linen on hand, ready for any emergency, should be able to receive the unexpected visitor with unruffled serenity. It is often well to ask such a guest how long he can stay, explaining that you wish to make suitable preparations to entertain him, but that you do not want to lose the pleasure of the visit. We all sympathize sincerely with that enthusiastically neat lady, who insisted that a friend should have the refreshment of a bath the moment he arrived at her house. He had been travelling for many hours and she was sure he would find a cool plunge grateful and invigorating. When he reappeared in the drawing-room half an hour later, it was to bid her good-bye! If she had inquired in the beginning,

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she would have learned that he had only that length of time to spare before resuming his journey. The country hostess who left her unexpected visitor alone in her little parlor all the afternoon, while she herself prepared biscuits and cake galore for her friend's supper, has been well described by one of our New England story-writers.

A young matron of my acquaintance is much wiser than that; it is her pleasure to have her country neighbors drop in to take pot luck with her without special invitation. She will say perhaps, "We have a nice leg of mutton for dinner to-day. Do stay and share it with us." If she is uncertain about the condition of the larder, she will excuse herself a moment to ascertain what she has on hand. If the supply is insufficient to give her guest a comfortable meal, she says frankly, "No, I have nothing good in the house to-day, so I won't ask you to stay to dinner; but do come in to-morrow. We are to have boiled halibut," or whatever the bill of fare for the next day may be. This young matron, who has two little children, but does most of her own work nevertheless, does not

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leave her guest alone in the parlor. She makes what she calls

A KITCHEN PARTY

where everybody helps, and work is turned into good fun. One guest is detailed to cut the bread, another to scramble the eggs or to set the table. Good spirits are contagious and it is wonderful how people enjoy following the lead of a merry hostess!

The chafing-dish is an invaluable help on all such occasions. The busy housekeeper who asks her friends to help her in the kitchen, must of course have that room and all its furniture in a neat and attractive condition. Such dainty cooking utensils can now be procured that the task of preparing food seems to lose much of its drudgery. I have seen kitchens where the spotless and shining stove, the clean white tables and the dainty agate or aluminum ware, were a poem in themselves.

While we very properly wish to set before our guests the best that we have, it is a mistake to use at any time, table furniture that we are ashamed to have others see. Don't

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use a red table-cloth for common and a white one only when guests are expected, if it would make you blush to have the colored cloth seen. To live a sham prevents our being truly hospitable and injures our self-respect in addition. If you make up your mind that it is best for you to reserve your snow-white napery for high days and holidays, do not be afraid to live up to your opinions. In France some families of aristocratic pretensions, living in chateaux in the country, use daily white oilcloth on the dinner-table, it is said.

In preparing a repast for an unexpected guest, do not forget that most people would rather have a tolerable meal at their ordinary hour, than a belated feast when they have grown faint or head-achey with waiting. A kindly housekeeper of the old-fashioned school made this mistake recently with a guest who arrived unexpectedly for luncheon on Christmas Day. Everyone was delighted to see this old family friend and he was besought to remain to late dinner. Impossible! He had promised to dine with Mr. Blank in the neighboring city. So the host-

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ess, with the most hospitable intent, decided to make her dinner hour three o'clock instead of half-past six. The visitor was given a light lunch at one, dinner at half-past three, and left the table just in time to keep his city engagement at half-past six. He alluded laughingly afterwards to the wonderful Christmas Day when he ate two dinners, one on top of the other.

A Woman's Exchange is a great help in the entertainment of the unexpected guest. A young matron need not be afraid to try to get one up, just because she is new to the place in which she lives and thinks it more becoming in her to allow older people to take the initiative. A little experience will show her that it is the young women, the newcomers who start new things. If she is very wise and wary, she will ask the advice and assistance of the elders, taking care not to let the actual control go out of her own hands until the thing is well started, or until she has obtained the help of some competent and responsible person. She should also avoid claiming the credit of the new venture, at least until it is firmly established. The

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older inhabitants do not so much object to new things as to being told that they are behind the times and that it is necessary for an outsider to stir them up. Even where a village proves too small to keep an exchange open permanently, it is sometimes possible to have two or three weekly salesdays and to obtain a list of consignors who can be reached by telephone, letter or messenger. Such an excellent neighbor, "The Charlotte Russe Lady," was a real blessing to the writer and to many other inhabitants of a small village a few years ago.

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PART II

CHAPTER VI

THE FLAT-DWELLER AND HER DIFFICULTIES

THE young girl who marries and goes to housekeeping in a small apartment, finds the problem of entertaining her friends and those of her husband a little difficult at first. Perhaps she has been brought up in a large house where there was plenty of room and a number of servants to assist her. Perhaps her mother was a delightful hostess and the very remembrance of the latter's accomplishments discourages the daughter. As she looks around her tiny establishment, she exclaims, "Why, I shall never be able to ask any one here!"

To such a girl I would say, "Don't be discouraged, my dear, if you are really in ear-

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nest, you will succeed in this as in any other reasonable undertaking. A woman who possesses the true spirit of hospitality will find a way to express it, if she has only a single room."

The first point is to make your home attractive, a place where you yourself pass happy hours. No matter how large a house is, we do not enjoy visiting it, if the home atmosphere is lacking. I remember one such dwelling the dreariness of which is indelibly impressed on my mind. My hostess was kind and cordial, but she was occupied with many outside cares, and it was evident that she thought very little about the internal appointments of her home. The large empty rooms, with their high ceilings and scanty ugly furniture, seemed to echo back our voices in the most melancholy way. We two appeared as if lost in the long dining-room; the house was dreary, lonely, deserted of all but ourselves. High ceilings are stately, but for every-day use low-studded rooms are much more cosy and cheerful. Marie Antoinette knew this and her apartments at Fontainebleau are a contrast in this

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respect with the rest of the palace. Our Puritan ancestors knew it too and built their houses accordingly. Tastes differ and so do climates. In southern lands we require less furniture and more effect of space than at the North. On some points we all agree, however. Every one likes to see the cheerful blaze of an open fire during the cold months of the year. If our housekeeper is so fortunate as to have an open fireplace or even a gas log in her apartment, it will help very much to give the much-desired look of home. A delightful single lady of my acquaintance once lived for a time in a city boarding-house. In order to reach her eyrie, we were obliged to climb two pairs of stairs, in spite of which it was always a pleasure to visit her. She had the dearest little open fire of glowing coals, and near it was a tiny old-fashioned cupboard in which she kept her hospitable tea equipage and store of nice little cakes sent from her beloved country home. Her work-basket with some pretty bit of work was always in evidence, and her welcome was ever most cordial. In a word, she contrived to surround herself with a

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delightful atmosphere of home and to exercise a charming hospitality, wherever her lot was cast.

Everyone likes to see flowers and growing plants, a few of which brighten a room wonderfully. There should not be so many as to darken the windows or to use up too much air. In the evening, a table lamp or some form of drop light adds to the cheerful effect.

Our young matron will remember that it is comparatively easy to make a small apartment look cosy, and she must avoid with the utmost care the other extreme, the crowded appearance which is so oppressive to the beholder. All superfluous articles of furniture must be ruthlessly weeded out. Every piece should be chosen primarily for its fitness and usefulness. If it is beautiful, so much the better. It is great folly to take up valuable space in a small apartment with ancestral chairs supported on uncertain legs, sofas whose covering is too light for common use, long and heavy hangings, window curtains trailing in the dust, ottomans or other pitfalls for the feet of unwary guests. Only a few ornaments should be permitted. Now

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that bric-à-brac has gone out of fashion, we all draw a sigh of relief; we have grown so tired of seeing dwellings crowded with it. If our young couple choose a sunny exposure, they will be wise. Nothing is so cheerful as the light of day and few things so gloomy as a dark apartment to which the sun never comes. It is better to go a little farther out of town or to a less fashionable neighborhood, than to live without plenty of fresh air and light.

If our bride has seen hospitality charmingly displayed in the home of her childhood, she will have traditions that will be of great assistance to her in entertaining in her turn. Only while she lives in small quarters, she must be contented to do so in homoeopathic fashion, small and frequent doses being suited to her case. The number of guests must of course be strictly proportioned to the space at her command. Where an apartment has been made out of an old-fashioned house with large rooms en suite, eight or even ten people may be accommodated at luncheon or dinner. It is important to have room enough for the waitress to hand the dishes

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without incommoding the guests, squeezing by or leaning over them. Something depends on the character of the guests and of the occasion. We can venture to invite intimate friends or people who are not inclined to be ceremonious, when we should hesitate to ask a person of very formal tastes.

Hospitality, like other matters of daily life, involves small compromises, and our young hostess must consider carefully the question whether the pleasure she can offer will be sufficient to make Miss So-and-so have a good time, despite some little drawbacks. One rule should never be violated. We must never crowd our tables or our rooms to such a degree that our guests cannot be comfortable. In an apartment of moderate size, six can sit down to table. Our hostess will try to choose a bill-of-fare consisting as much as possible of articles that can be prepared the day or at least some hours beforehand, since she will be thus less flustered and fatigued when her guests arrive. She must also beware of using the frying-pan and so scenting her small rooms with the odors of cooking. Turnips, onions, cauliflowers and

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cabbage should be looked at askance for the same reason. If she does her own work, she will probably select cold meats, as less troublesome and less odorous.

For lunch, bouillon, clam broth with whipped cream or some form of soup served in cups, followed by cold chicken, stuffed potatoes and a simple salad (lettuce, tomatoes or cucumbers, with French dressing), the dessert consisting of wine or lemon jelly served with whipped cream, a fruit salad, ice cream or charlotte russe from the confectioner, make a bill-of-fare that is easily managed. A vegetarian hostess might substitute a dish of maccaroni with cheese, daintily prepared and baked, for the cold fowl. If there is a maid-servant, chops, beef-steak, broiled or roast chicken will probably form the principal dish of meat. Tea is usually preferred for informal lunches, but some ladies offer instead coffee or cocoa. Coffee is better at the end of the meal, tea or cocoa at any time after the soup course. In hot weather, lemonade, fruit punch or grape juice may be substituted for a hot drink.

If our young matron understands the use

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of the chafing dish, she can add to the fun of the occasion and the pleasure of the guests by cooking an omelette, creaming oysters or preparing some other dainty dish on table. But this is not to be recommended until our neophyte has had some experience both with entertaining and with the chafing-dish. I myself have a sad memory of preparing a dish of eggs before my guests and forgetting the initial step of melting the butter. We had a good laugh at the result, but it was very difficult to remove the eggs, which clung with great tenacity to the ungreased pan.

At dinner or at lunch, if gentlemen are present, it is best to have a hot joint, a steak or some hot substantial dish of meat. Most men prefer good solid food to what they call "Kickshaws," namely, chops, sweetbreads, patties and the various dainty dishes that are favorites with women.

Since the air of small rooms soon becomes close, it is advisable to arrange an entertainment in such a way that the guests shall not stay too long in any one apartment. Thus the windows can be opened in the little par-

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lor while the company are at dinner, and the service of the latter should be rapid enough to enable the guests to return to the drawing-room before the dining-room becomes over-heated and stuffy. Since it is most unwholesome to eat fast, our youthful housekeeper must plan the number of her courses to suit the dimensions of her rooms. Coffee she should of course serve in the parlor for this reason.

While it is a part of our Anglo-Saxon idea of hospitality that it should cluster to some extent about the domestic hearth-stone, it is possible to entertain our guests elsewhere. The dwellers in a tiny apartment sometimes give their friends a dinner at a neighboring hotel, if their means warrant. Where they can have a private room in which to receive their guests and a private dining-room, the occasion may be as pleasant as if held in a private house. Or our hostess may invite her friends to go to the theatre or to a concert, a lecture or an art exhibition, dining with her and her husband first, or perhaps coming to supper afterwards. This may be cold, with hot coffee, or may be prepared in

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part over the chafing-dish. A rare-bit is a favorite supper-dish for those who have vigorous digestions. If the young couple cannot well afford to buy tickets for every one, the theatre party may be a Dutch treat, the hostess providing the supper or dinner at her own dwelling and at her own expense. Nothing is more vulgar than to rate hospitality solely by the amount of money expended. We wish to treat our friends with generosity, but if we spend time, thought and ingenuity on their entertainment, we give them something far more precious than any mere display of wealth.

An ingenious hostess can usually find many objects of interest with which to entertain friends from out of town. If she live in a historic city or town, there will be museums, monuments or famous spots to be visited. In a new place, there are always new buildings of some sort to be seen, parks to be explored, factories or tall buildings to be examined and admired. When we go to Europe, there is always something to see even in the smallest hamlet. There is much to be admired in our own coun-

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try, for those who keep their eyes open. People are coming to understand this in our large cities, witness the automobiles for "Seeing Washington," New York or Boston. It is true that one cannot entertain one's fellow townsmen by showing them the local sights with which they are or ought to be familiar. For their amusement something else must be provided. Fortunately those who live in the same city usually have many common interests which provide topics of conversation. The newspapers and magazines also help us with suggestions from time to time, of novelties that please just because they are new to us, or of old customs revived that are welcome for the same reason. Some of these are described in other chapters. It is well to have on hand a supply of playing cards, checkers and other games both old and new.

Our flat-dweller must never forget the physical limitations of her liliputian abode, though she may permit her own intellect and those of her friends to soar to the loftiest empyrean. She must always ask herself the question, "Will that fit in my apartment?"

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If she wants a little music, she should procure the assistance of those performers who can moderate their musical transports to twelve by twelve requirements or whatever the size of her drawing-room may be. A large Victor machine or a live singer with a powerful voice might deafen her guests. Her piano must be of small size and subdued tone.

While she cannot attempt an afternoon tea on a large scale, she can invite a few friends at a time to this easy and pleasant form of entertainment. Or she may send out cards for a certain day of the week in one or two months. If she has a large circle of friends and acquaintances, she may find it best to divide her invitations, asking half her visiting list for December and the other half for January. The division might be made according to the letters of the alphabet, by the wife of a physician or a clergyman or by any lady who had reason to fear giving offence by seeming to discriminate between her guests. The surest way to avoid this difficulty is to have a day at home all through the season — or until Lent or

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some given period. Thus a lady may have on her visiting card, "Fridays until April" or "Third and Fourth Fridays until Lent." There are many drawbacks to a regular reception day, especially where there is only one hostess. A mother and daughter or two sisters living together can take turns in being at home, if some very attractive invitation is received for that particular day. For a woman of strong hospitable inclinations, with a modest purse, a regular reception day is well worth all the sacrifices it costs. If she has any social talent, she will draw about her a circle of friends who enjoy coming to see her and are glad to know when they can surely find her at home. It also saves her time on other days of the week, for she can deny herself to callers if she chooses to do so, since they know there is an appointed time when they can be received.

If our flat-dweller lives in an apartment with an elevator, she should be careful to notify the man in charge of it that she expects guests at a specified time. Indeed it is always well to leave word with him or with the clerk at the desk when she is going

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out, unless she has a maid-servant to open her door and give all needed information.

A lady with hospitable inclinations will save herself some awkward moments if she is dressed and ready to receive callers early in the afternoon. In the morning it is expected that everyone will be occupied, all formal calls being reserved for a later period in the day.

It is difficult to accommodate any guests save near relatives or intimate friends overnight in a small apartment, and it should not be lightly undertaken. Where there is a regular guest chamber and a hall so arranged that one can pass to the dining-room or parlor direct, the case is different. Where the rooms are all connected so that one must pass through those of other people on leaving one's own, the effect is very awkward. Our young matron should so arrange matters that it would be possible for her to keep a friend overnight, in case of emergency. She should have a door that will shut and lock for one room at least, even though she uses portières elsewhere. A bachelor friend of her husband or a school or college mate of her own might

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find it convenient to stay overnight, despite the drawbacks necessarily incident to "camping out" in a tiny apartment. The hostess or the host must look out carefully for the comfort of the guest, managing matters so as to produce the minimum of awkwardness. The guest must be called in the morning, he must be notified when he can leave his room, and the other members of the family must be told also, so that they may be out of the way at the right psychological moment. If any one sleeps in the parlor, all evidences of such occupancy must be removed while the family are at breakfast. The husband may relieve the awkwardness of the situation by taking his friend out to a neighboring hotel or boarding-house for the morning meal. In an apartment house where there is a restaurant, the problem of entertaining guests overnight is much simplified.

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CHAPTER VII

AFTERNOON TEAS AND RECEPTIONS



HERE is a subtle charm about the fragrant herb that makes the drinking of tea together a social function unlike any other. Efforts have been made to substitute the Kaffee-Klatsch for the tea-party, but they have not been successful in English-speaking countries. Coffee is all very well in its way. As a mere drink, it is perhaps to be preferred to its sister beverage, for it tastes as well, if not better, and is a more powerful stimulant. But it makes no appeal to the imagination and recalls no classic legends of the olden time, no patriotic memories of the days of seventy-six. Why the American Revolution could never have succeeded, had it not been ushered in by that gigantic libation of tea, solemnly poured into old Boston Harbor

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and echoed by the citizens of far-off South Carolina, when they with equal self-sacrifice stored their chests in damp cellars where the leaf was soon spoiled.

As we stir our cups of fragrant Salada or the much advertised Sir Thomas Lipton brand, we think of ponderous old Dr. Johnson and his inordinate fondness for the cup that cheers but does not inebriate. We remember Pope's fair ladies, with their powder, puffs and patches, with their hoops, brocaded gowns and all the glories of the courtly eighteenth century costume. Whereas coffee recalls to us only the Arabs of the desert or the unspeakable Turk. Was it not over the tea-cups that our grandmothers hung fondly, striving to tell their fortunes by the stray fragments that floated to the surface? They keenly appreciated the romance, the mystery that clings to the magic herb. To see the little parched, withered sticks grow into beautiful bronze green leaves under the benign influence of boiling water, renewing their youth like the bay tree, is always a wonder, though we have seen it a thousand times before. This is one secret of our fond-

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ness for tea-drinking. We love to watch the whole process of preparing it, the quick leaping into flame of the alcohol lamp, the steady glow of the miniature fire, the ascending cloud of steam, the cheery singing of the Urn, all seem a survival of some ancient rite performed on the domestic hearth of our ancestors, countless centuries ago.

We love to linger with Dr. Holmes "Over the Tea-Cups," whereas we do not dare to trifle with the more deadly coffee. Do not the magazines constantly warn us against it, recommending patented substitutes in the most disinterested spirit? Whether it is the prosaic appearance of the Java berry, the fact that it is usually prepared slowly in remote kitchens or the lack of historic associations, is hard to say, but it is certain that no one has ever called a meal "Coffee," "Cocoa" or "Chocolate." That honor is reserved for one unrivalled beverage alone. Indeed we cling so fondly to the name of tea that we refused to part with it, even when the custom of dining late drove out the dear old-fashioned evening meal of our childhood. We adopted with joy the idea

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and the name of "Afternoon Tea," and it is even dearer to our English sisters than to ourselves. They made a futile effort to call this function a kettledrum, when it was reintroduced some thirty years ago, but the dearer and more peaceful name of "Tea" prevailed. Clearly one could not have a warlike drum beating in the house every afternoon.

The great charm of these occasions lies in their simplicity and informality. Provided she complies with a few simple rules, any woman with the average amount of brains can give an afternoon tea, even though she has had little experience as a hostess. If she is very young or very nervous, she should write down beforehand what she needs, lest she should forget some very simple thing. It is very mortifying to be obliged to fall back on condensed milk, because your family has used up all the cream and fresh milk, an accident very apt to occur where there are young children. It is true that many people now prefer lemon but cream still has its votaries. Our neophyte should begin with a small and informal occasion. For this it is

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best to have the tea-service in the drawing-room, unless the rooms are so small as to make an adjournment to the dining-room advisable.

The easiest method is to have the table arranged before the arrival of the guests. It should be protected by a cotton flannel cloth under the linen one. Over this again may come an afternoon tea-cloth ornamented with embroidery or drawn-work. A large silver or brass tray affords a farther protection to the table. One should at least have a small tray under the spout of the tea urn or kettle, since it is very difficult to pour out many cups without spilling some of the liquid. A Russian Samovar produces the most decorative effect, but an old-fashioned silver urn looks very well also; a silver or brass tea-kettle, fitted with an alcohol lamp, is often used. Wood alcohol or methylated spirits cannot be recommended. It is cheaper than the better grades but has an unpleasant odor. A silver tea-pot, cream-pitcher, sugar bowl and slop bowl are to be preferred, although a large china or earthenware tea-pot is very convenient. According to a new and

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pretty fashion, this may be set in an arabesque frame of openwork silver. Lump sugar, cream, one or two lemons sliced very thin, a pretty tea-caddy and the necessary number of cups, saucers, spoons and a box of matches are all set on the table. It saves time and alcohol to have the hot water brought in at the last moment. It is also better to allow the sandwiches and cake, or whatever the solid part of the entertainment is, to remain in the pantry until needed.

A "Curate's Assistant" is a useful adjunct to the afternoon tea table. It consists of a small upright stand, with three or four shelves just large enough to hold a plate of bread-and-butter or cake. Where there are only a few guests, a silver tea-ball may be used. Boiling hot water is poured into a cup and the ball immersed in it long enough to make the beverage of the required strength. Little bags of cheese-cloth serve a similar purpose. A few spoonfuls of dry tea are tied up in these and placed in the tea-pot as needed. They are readily taken out and one can in this way avoid the bitter taste and unwholesome quality of leaves that

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have been long steeped. Tea that has stood more than three minutes on the leaves develops tannin, which is considered very unwholesome. As it is the substance with which leather is tanned, the idea of imbibing it frequently is rather alarming. Water which has just come to the boiling point should be used in making tea and there should be a large supply of it, as most persons now prefer their tea very weak. In summer lemonade, iced tea or some cooling drink, is often served in addition.

Our hostess may offer her friends thin bread-and-butter and cake or sandwiches if she prefers. These are now made in an endless variety, to suit different tastes. They can usually be ordered from a Woman's Exchange. Those made of currant jelly are at once pretty and palatable. Orange marmalade, nuts, cucumbers, lettuce or other greens, pâté-de-foie-gras, cream cheese and peanut butter all make excellent filling for sandwiches, as well as the more old-fashioned but ever popular chicken, ham and tongue. Muffins or bread toasted and buttered or tiny hot biscuits may replace the sandwiches.

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Where there is a waitress, she should bring in the hot water and sandwiches, etc., and remove the soiled cups and saucers from time to time. If our young matron is dependent on her own exertions, she should ask one or two young friends to assist her in waiting on the guests. Indeed it is always desirable to have some one share the duties of a hostess on these occasions. Just because they are so informal, they involve a good deal of mental and physical activity for the lady of the house. It is impossible to pour tea properly, unless you give your whole mind to it, so some one must be ready to shake hands with an incoming visitor, to draw the fire of the incessant chatterer or to talk to a shy guest, as the case may demand.

Where only three or four persons are expected, the more elegant way is to have the entire tea-service brought in on a large tray by the servant and set before the mistress of the house, on a low, small table.

It is not quite so cosy to have the tea served in the dining-room, but it is much better where there are many guests. This arrangement has the advantage of making

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the company circulate, hence it produces more life and movement than where all stand or sit quietly in one apartment. For an affair of this sort, the hostess usually invites two or three friends beforehand to come without their hats and preside at the tea-table. She often asks others to assist as waitresses. The number of hostesses adds an air of sociability to the occasion and it is usually a compliment to be called on to help in this way. When tea is served in the dining-room, the bill-of-fare may be a little more elaborate. Salted nuts, dried ginger and bon-bons of various sorts are in order. Coffee, chocolate or bouillon may be poured at one end of the table, tea of course at the other. Ribbon is not so much used for decoration as formerly. A handsome polished mahogany table, with lace or embroidered linen centre-piece and doilies to match under the dishes, makes an effective background for the dainty china or silver dishes and the candelabra. These may be of silver or glass with colored or hand-painted shades. Four single candlesticks make a very good table decoration.

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Our hostess may have only a maid-of-all-work, in which case it should be her especial duty to wait on the door, assisting at the table also, so far as she can. If there are more than a dozen or fifteen guests, she will need some assistance, either from friends of the house or from a person hired for the afternoon. In cities and even in towns of moderate size, there are usually waitresses who can be hired for especial occasions at a moderate price. Such women will, if desired, come in the morning and make all the necessary preparations, cleaning the silver, preparing the sandwiches, etc.

The lady of the house having made sure that everything is in readiness, can array herself in a pretty afternoon toilette, which must be high in the neck. Fashion now decrees that evening dress (i. e., bodice cut low) must not be assumed until the hour for late dinner. The transparent yoke effects are very popular for afternoon tea and a long skirt is always prettier than a short one for house wear. A hostess does not need gloves unless her tea is so large as to be virtually a reception. If only a few friends are ex-

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pected, she need not stand, but she must not forget to rise and greet ladies as they enter. If a number of people have been invited, she will take her stand near the door and remain there until most of the guests have arrived. If the tea has been given in honor of a friend, the latter should take her place next to the lady of the house and all guests should be presented to her, after they have shaken hands with the hostess. A daughter stands next to her mother in the same way, if the tea is given to introduce her to society. Otherwise, she and the other assistant hostesses move about the rooms, talking with the guests and asking them if they will have some refreshment. In the dining-room the amateur waitresses do not hesitate to ask the same question. They do this whether they know the guests or not.

A reception differs from an afternoon tea in being more formal and more costly. The invitations are usually engraved and are sent out about two weeks in advance. In a large city, a strip of red velvet carpet laid down the doorsteps, with an awning overhead, and a man on the sidewalk to open

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the doors of the carriages, give a festive air to the exterior of the house. In addition to the person who opens the front door, there is usually a man-servant or a maid just outside the entrance to the drawing-room, who inquires the names of the guests and announces them distinctly to his mistress.

In the chapter on Dances (number 11) the advantages and disadvantages of this custom are discussed at some length. In summer, when few wraps are worn, dressing-rooms are not needed, but in cold weather they are usually provided.

On short winter days, receptions are usually held with the aid of artificial light. The rooms are often handsomely decorated with flowers or potted plants and sometimes there is music. Ices, lemonade and wine-cup or punch not too strong for ladies, may be added to the usual menu for afternoon tea, by those who do not think it wrong to use such stimulants in moderation. Salads are sometimes offered, but the tendency of the day is to avoid giving at this hour a "heavy spread," since it would interfere with the late dinner. In small towns, where people

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dine in the middle of the day, a number of substantial dishes, such as salads, croquettes and oysters, are served, thus furnishing the guests with what is in reality a supper.

Afternoon entertainments offer an easy way of paying off one's social debts, but where they are on a large scale one sees very little of the hostess. The guests necessarily entertain each other. A woman with gracious and hospitable instincts can give an agreeable tone to any occasion at her house, by greeting her friends and acquaintances with cordiality, and by showing pleasure at their presence. If she seems bored and weary, or cold, formal and stiff, how can she expect that her guests will enjoy themselves! Verily, one is sometimes tempted to say, "What a good time we could have were it not for our hostess!" A débutante said lately to one of her young friends, at the tea given in honor of her coming out in society, "Don't feel obliged to stay unless you want to. Afternoon teas are such a bore, aren't they?"

If she had been a little older, she would have realized that it is an important part of

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the duty of a model hostess to take a cheerful view of her own entertainment. She should invite her friends with the idea of giving them and herself real pleasure. Otherwise it is better not to ask them.

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CHAPTER VIII

LUNCHEONS



UNCH is the most elastic of meals, capable of expansion or contraction to suit all tastes and all purses. It may mean anything from a piece of bread and a glass of milk, to a gorgeous repast of innumerable courses. Fortunately for the digestions of our countrywomen, the very elaborate luncheons in vogue at one time have gone out of fashion. The evil became excessive and so cured itself.

Formal luncheons are still popular and are likely to continue so, but the number of courses has been greatly curtailed. Both at this meal and at dinner, quality is now more esteemed than quantity. These midday feminine banquets are an American development of the old idea of luncheon,

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which meant simply a light form of refreshment and not a regular meal. As the dinner hour grew later and later in our large cities, luncheon necessarily became a more substantial repast. Some people of robust health can go from breakfast to late dinner without taking even a sandwich between, but for most of us this would not be compatible with comfort. The crusade against the old-fashioned heavy American breakfast has also had a tendency to make the midday meal heartier. Many people now eat very little in the morning and are hungry at noon as a natural consequence. Hence in many cities and towns, luncheon is a substantial meal, although it still retains its original informal character, on all ordinary occasions.

The hour makes it a convenient time for women to entertain each other, since it does not involve the necessity of bringing out a tired husband, who probably prefers to pass his evenings quietly at home. It is a pity that our American men are so weary at the end of the day, for the ideal and the most agreeable society is that where men and

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women meet together. I fear too much is demanded of these husbands. If we were all willing to live with greater simplicity, our men would not be obliged to work so hard and would not be so brain-weary. We might have the pleasure of their company at evening gatherings, if we would only simplify our lives a little. Alas! we are all such imitative animals that we think we must follow New York fashions, though we live in a small town where these are really very inappropriate. The bane of suburban hospitality is this fatal aping of the customs of the nearest great city. It is very natural and very proper to wish to be up-to-date. But we are really not up-to-date if we do not take into consideration the question of proportion and suitability. No matter how true your costume may be to the prevailing mode, it will not look well if it is several sizes too large for you. The same thing is true of entertainments. If too large for the means of the giver they will appear like ill-fitting garments, while those that are inappropriate to the locality will resemble a dress that is

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unbecoming to the wearer. After more than two thousand years, we still admire the ancient Greeks above all other nations, because they possessed perfect taste. We cannot do better than to follow their example by striving to make good taste the first requisite for our entertainments. Our hostess must ask herself, "Will this form of hospitality be appropriate to Podunk (or whatever her home town may be), to my house and to my purse?" Emerson's ideal of "Plain living and high thinking" is one which should be remembered by all his countrymen. During his presidency Mr. Roosevelt set us an excellent example of cordiality and simplicity in hospitality. At the White House he frequently entertained guests at luncheon, the bill-of-fare being simple, while the cooking was excellent.

Every housekeeper knows that there must be some meal in the course of the twenty-four hours, at which warmed-over dishes can be served up. Now that meat is going out of fashion for breakfast, lunch presents the best opportunity for using up odds and ends. These are always greater favorites

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with women than with men, perhaps because they appeal to our love of economy. One need not be afraid to ask a friend whom one knows well, to lunch on chicken creamed on toast or corned-beef hash, provided it is nicely prepared and served hot. Cold meat cut thin may form the chief dish, but lukewarm food is fit neither for gods nor for men. The English, whose hospitality is proverbial for its excellence, do not think it necessary to serve such a profusion of food as is apt to characterize an American table. If a Briton invites you to dine informally on a dish of ox's heart or of mutton and turnips, you will find that he means what he says. We shall doubtless learn something of the same simplicity after awhile, and cease to weary ourselves by a constant straining after expensive effects that are only appropriate to the tables of persons of large wealth. If we analyze these, we shall see that their greatest charm lies in their harmony and in the perfect freshness of all the appointments. With a little thought and study, it is quite possible to reproduce the harmonious effect and the exquisite neatness

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which is always attractive in itself, on a much simpler scale, just as the Japanese can decorate a room with a single ornament placed in exactly the right position. To produce the desired effect, everything about the table must be spotlessly clean. The silver and glass must be well polished, bright and shining.

The daintiness of table napery must never be neglected. Our young hostess must have an abundant stock of napkins and table-cloths, enough to ensure a fresh supply whenever guests are expected. Colored napery is little used now. Plain white linen of good quality, carefully laundered, never goes out of fashion. Lace-trimmed or embroidered lunch cloths are also used, by those who can afford such expensive appointments. The English, who do not use napkins a second time, do not always have them at lunch. This seems rather barbarous to us, each nation having its own views. The bare table, provided it is handsome or at least in good condition, is often used at luncheon, a centre-piece and place doilies being used in

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this case instead of the conventional table-cloth. As this arrangement, strictly speaking, calls for a doily under each plate, tumbler, saucer, etc., it is rather troublesome. Where a cloth is used, a centre-piece adds to the attractiveness of the table, but no place doilies should be used, as they would look and be superfluous. It is a rule in decorative art that every ornament shall have some meaning. Ornament for its own sake is not in good taste.

The napkins used need not be so large as those for dinner. A dish of fruit prettily arranged may be placed in the centre of the table; the glossy leaves of the laurel or the orange add a pretty touch and are cheaper than flowers in winter, or a few evergreen twigs will give a cheery effect. A dish of growing ferns or a potted plant may also be used. Indeed there is room for much ingenuity, as well as for the display of artistic taste, in this matter of table decoration. Variety, provided it is in good taste, is always refreshing. If flowers are employed, it is well to adhere to the modern plan of

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massing together those of the same kind and color, relieved perhaps by a little greenery, their own leaves being best for this purpose.

The modern plan of writing out the bill-of-fare and pinning it up in the butler's pantry, will be found a great aid to the memory of the waitress. If the hostess is dependent on her own exertions, she should have the plates for the later courses all set out in the butler's pantry or on the sideboard in the dining-room. For an informal lunch, the tea-service is placed before the hostess at the beginning of the meal.

Some hints for the bill-of-fare for such an occasion have already been given in the chapter on "The Flat-dweller." It may be infinitely varied however, at different seasons of the year and to suit the talents and convenience of the hostess. If she has some special recipes, or if she can make sponge cake or any other suitable dish particularly well, it will give a certain individuality to her lunch and add to the pleasure of her guests. Let her beware of giving any fruit or vegetable out of its proper season. Products that are forced for the markets or brought long

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distances, are seldom very good in themselves. Who of us has not been horribly disappointed by premature strawberries for instance, that were so fair to look upon and tasted so much like vinegar! Where there is an elaborate bill-of-fare, it does not so much matter if one dish does not turn out well. But the hostess who entertains on a modest scale cannot afford to have any dish fail. Every one must tell! For the same reason, it is an unwise experiment to place before a guest from another part of the country some article of food which is an especial favorite there. If you give a Bostonian baked beans and brown bread, it will only serve to remind him of the superiority of the home cooking of those particular dishes. If you offer a New Yorker preserved oysters in the West, it strengthens him in the opinion that this bivalve is only good when fresh. Whereas if you offer the visitor the specialties of your neighborhood, he is much more likely to be pleased and interested.

A hostess who has no servant must carefully plan her luncheon in such a way that

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she will be obliged to leave her seat as little as possible. She should confine herself strictly to three courses, soup or fruit, meat, fish, eggs or whatever solid dish she offers, and dessert. Indeed two courses suffice for an informal lunch. A capable housekeeper can of course offer more courses if she wishes. But she should remember that it will be likely to give her guests a feeling of discomfort, to see her constantly rising from her chair. They will regret putting her to so much trouble, while they will appreciate her consideration for their welfare. Here again must come in our sense of proportion. Methods of serving that are appropriate where a regular set of servants is employed, are not suitable in a household where there is only a maid-of-all-work. The latter, having duties in the kitchen as well as in the dining-room to perform, cannot spare the time to do everything that is expected of an accomplished waitress. The service cannot well be à la Russe, according to which everything is cut up in the butler's pantry or on a side table and the food is all passed from there, nothing save the ornaments and a few

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pretty little dishes (called compôtiers) holding fruit, bon-bons and other trifles, being allowed to stand on the table. Usually where there is only a maid-of-all-work, she is asked to put the dishes on and pass them once, leaving them on the table. If there is any likelihood of the guests desiring a second helping, the hostess and her friends can assist each other, while the maid retires to see about the next course. The latter should also remove the crumbs before the dessert is set on table. A capable woman who understands cooking and waiting can serve a lunch for six or eight persons, provided her mistress has set the table and made all in readiness in the dining-room beforehand, or has assisted with the cooking. Of course the bill-of-fare must not be too elaborate and must consist of articles that can be prepared for the most part before the arrival of the guests.

Modern theory prescribes that we shall not remain at table more than an hour or an hour and a half at the utmost. Hence it is better to have the service simple rather than to detain the guests beyond the usual

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time. In an age of automobiles, speed is one of the first requirements in all matters. We must not take too much of the time of our friends when we entertain them. This is especially the case at luncheon since it comes in the precious midday hours.

FORMAL LUNCHEONS

Our hostess should hardly attempt to give a formal lunch without hiring outside assistance, unless she has two capable servants. The waitress should appear in a plain black dress, with a fresh white apron finished with bretelles coming over the shoulder. Some young women object to wearing the dainty little white cap that gives such a pretty finish to the whole costume. According to the old-fashioned American idea, it savors a little of the livery which many people dislike as being undemocratic. To the black dress and white apron, no such objection can reasonably be made.

In addition to the centre-piece of flowers or fruit, there may be four vases of flowers

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set at the corners of the table. Or the decorations may all be of ferns or other pretty greenery. Menus are not used for lunches or dinners at private houses. Candles with pretty shades should form part of the decorative scheme, where artificial light replaces that of the sun on a dark day or in a dark dining-room. Sunlight is infinitely to be preferred however, where it can be had in good measure. In Chapter X, "The Day of the Dinner," will be found a new scheme of table decoration which is both pretty and ingenious.

Grape-fruit is a favorite first course, while it is in season, as are strawberries, melons or peaches in summer. Or the lunch may begin with clam or chicken broth or bouillon served in covered cups and eaten with a large teaspoon. If fish is served it comes after the soup, but it is not necessary to have it at luncheon. Should there be an entrée, it follows next; then comes the solid course, chops, filet of beef or whatever is selected. The salad course succeeds this, with or without birds. Ices or other sweet dishes come

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next, followed by fruit and bon-bons. After-dinner coffee is served in tiny cups, either in the dining-room or the drawing-room as the hostess pleases. Or a simpler bill-of-fare could include only soup (or fruit in summer), chops or steak, salad served with cold chicken or ham and the course of sweets.

The hostess leads the way to the dining-room and tells the guests where to sit, unless name-cards have been set at the places. Where there are a number of persons present, these are very helpful, saving time and preventing confusion. The hostess puts a relative or a friend whom she knows well at the foot of the table, placing the guest whom she wishes to honor most on her right, and the person of next importance on her left. The other guests that she desires to distinguish are asked to sit on either hand of the lady at the foot of the table.

It has been said that at these feminine lunches, the motto is "Grab, Gobble and Go," and the lady of the house will not be surprised if her drawing-room is emptied of her fair friends within half an hour or less

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of their leaving the table. It would obviously be unsafe however, for her to make a hard and fast engagement obliging her to leave so soon, since some one might linger longer.

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CHAPTER IX

HOW TO GIVE AN AGREEABLE DINNER

A YOUNG matron will certainly wish to entertain her husband's friends at dinner and if she is a woman of courage she will not allow herself to be frightened out of her good intentions, just because this is the most formal meal of the day. It is also the pleasantest since it comes when the day's work is over and we can abandon ourselves to the enjoyment of a little well-earned relaxation, with a good conscience. Every hour of the twenty-four has its special significance and there is something about the early evening which has always made it the favorite time for social intercourse among civilized peoples. The waning of the sun gives the signal to birds and animals to compose themselves

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to sleep, but man with his vivid imagination is not so readily satisfied. He desires some communion with his fellow man before he abandons himself to mere oblivion. So he lights the lamps, gathers the family about the fireside, and makes of the twilight the crown of the whole day, when the stranger within his gates will find him at his very best. We have substituted steam heat and the electric current for the simpler ways of the olden time, but the prevailing spirit of the hour remains the same. Like the Ancient Greeks and Romans we find it the best and brightest time for the entertainment of our friends.

Hence a hostess has the traditions of thousands of years behind her, when she invites her friends to late dinner. The thought that we are doing what countless generations of men have found agreeable and convenient, is wonderfully sustaining. She will certainly take great pains with her preparations and endeavor to have her house appear as attractive as possible. Fortunately artificial light has a magic way of lending a lustre to objects which seem comparatively insignificant under the sun's glaring rays, as well as

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of mercifully covering up defects. Sunlight is so superb and magnificent in itself that it dwarfs all else. Hence the artist does not attempt to portray the face of Nature during the bright noonday hours. Neither she nor we look our best then.

The selection of guests for a dinner is very important, because after they are once seated there can be no circulation of the company until the meal is over. One enterprising hostess of my acquaintance made a practice of asking her friends to change seats in the course of the dinner, thinking this would tend to enliven the conversation. But the guests disliked the innovation extremely, as it seemed to them undignified and not in accordance with the proprieties of the occasion. One indignant man of letters went so far as to say, "Yes, Mrs. Blank, I will change my seat, since you insist upon it, but I shall never enter your house again!!" So our hostess abandoned her pet manoeuvre and contented herself with breaking up conversations when she thought they had lasted long enough.

She would say, for instance, "Mr. X—, will not you talk to Miss Jay on your right?

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You have been talking a long time to Mrs. S— on your left!"

Mr. X— would turn very red and either become suddenly silent or start a perfunctory conversation with the lady indicated. As this hostess was at heart truly hospitable, and entertained in all other respects with real elegance, her friends were willing, with some grumbling, to endure her peculiarities. She was in reality a pioneer and the system which she inaugurated in a crude way, has now been developed to a smooth and inane perfection. Thus at very formal dinners, the guests, if they are accomplished diners-out, do not attempt to talk until the hostess has given them the cue. If she begins a conversation with the gentleman on her right, every one else follows suit, and we have the beautiful spectacle of an entire tableful of guests, with their heads all turned in the same direction.

After a due length of time, the hostess solemnly turns to speak to the gentleman on her left, when all the guests, who have been carefully on the watch for this signal, execute a *volte-face,* and turning the left cheek,

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begin a new conversation with the neighbor on the left. This system was no doubt invented by an English peer, and can be highly recommended to those who seek for the apotheosis of decorous dullness.

To invite a number of people to dine with you, merely to pay off your social debts, is to make a fatal mistake. We must all consider our social obligations, without doubt, when we entertain. It may be necessary to invite one or two persons to a dinner for this reason, but if the occasion is to be agreeable to anyone, the majority of the guests should be asked because it is expected that their presence will give pleasure to themselves and others. If mine hostess wishes to entertain a married couple and to invite some one to meet them, she must consider carefully whether such a meeting would be agreeable to both parties, especially where all live in the same town. It is well to ask people who have something in common, since this assists conversation. It will help the hosts if the guests already know each other. People who are intimately acquainted and meet very often, may not find

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it very interesting to be asked to meet Mr. Jones, who knows all their old stories and their views on most subjects. Hence the occasion will be more amusing if the guests do not know each other too well.

It has been said that a happy mingling of old and new friends produces excellent results. With the former we feel more at home and at our ease, while the presence of the latter affords the promise at least of the novelty that is so attractive to most of us. A dinner of old friends, of comrades who have been separated by distance or the press of business cares, is likely to be very pleasant. But to such an occasion, we must be careful how we ask an outsider, lest he find himself a foreign element. Thus if three college or school mates are to dine together, it would be unfortunate to have another man present. As the wives would not probably have any special bond between them, it would not matter so much about the feminine contingent.

A man or woman who is a good talker and understands the art of being agreeable, is a popular dinner guest. There are people however, who have a great flow of language

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but who are tiresome company. The man who monopolizes conversation is not popular, unless he is exceptionally brilliant. There are some men who talk so delightfully that we willingly make them the kings of the occasion. When asking such a person we must be careful to ask only one of the kind. Two supreme talkers at one board produce a fatal effect, unless one is so magnanimous as to abdicate in favor of the other. Mark Twain expounds to us in his inimitable way why he kept silence when dining with the Kaiser, declaring generously that Emperor William was quite right to carry on the conversation by himself and that he, Mark Twain, would treat his imperial guest in the same way, should the latter ever chance to dine with the American humorist.

It is said that a dinner-party composed entirely of young people is usually stupid, because they possess little social experience. Men and women who are accustomed to society and possess some knowledge of the world, make agreeable dinner guests. They can converse on a number of topics and understand the small talk which seems to be

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as necessary as small change. Such persons will also be tactful and will endeavor to avoid topics that might pain or mortify some member of the company. A man of this sort, provided he is intelligent and not merely a society butterfly, is a boon to his hosts. It might not be well however, to ask him to meet a clever but very shy man who required drawing out, just as an amateur performer dislikes to play on the piano in the presence of a professional pianist or a musical critic. Our hostess should also be careful not to invite people together whose views or position in life are so different that they will not be apt to harmonize. Human society, like salad, requires a number of different ingredients to give it flavor and piquancy, but we must not select those which, like oil and water, will not mix. There are some excellent persons who are extremely conventional in their tastes. They are lacking in imagination or in the sense of humor, and like to move always in the same groove, to meet always the same kind of people. Such persons are in reality extremely provincial, although many of them are to be

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found in large cities. If you have a friend who takes original views of life and expresses them in a delightful way, you may make the mistake of inviting your conventional friend to share your pleasure in meeting this refreshing individual. The result will be disappointment unless the man who thinks for himself has already obtained name and fame. In this case our conventional friend will endeavor to admire the lion, knowing that this will be the proper thing to do. It is not likely that the two men will find a common meeting ground and the clever man may be intensely bored. There are other men who, although somewhat conventional in their tastes, appreciate and enjoy meeting from time to time "All sorts and conditions of men." These persons, while accustomed to move in a polished and rather formal society, are catholic enough to find pleasure in the company of interesting men and women who have been brought up among other surroundings.

We must consider also the tastes and wishes of our man of original ideas, who cannot be expected to have much patience with

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hopelessly dull or extremely conventional and narrow-minded persons. If he likes to dazzle, he will prefer to meet those who will appreciate but not emulate his cleverness; if he is of nobler clay, he will enjoy above all things talking with his intellectual equals or even superiors.

People who have similar tastes usually like to meet. If our hostess is inviting a friend who is a musician, she will probably ask also others who are fond of music. A little care must be exercised even here, for the extreme Wagnerian will not have much in common with the admirer of the Italian school of opera. However, if they are men of the world, they can talk on other subjects. A hostess cannot be expected to exercise more than a reasonable amount of precaution in selecting her guests, and her privileges as mistress of the occasion enable her to guide the conversation to some extent.

Just here I think I hear our neophyte exclaim, "Oh dear! I could never do that!" Yes you could, my young friend, if you felt it was your duty and if you had something to say. Remember how readily you talk among

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your women friends, and try to select subjects of timely and general interest, such as the news of the day always offers — the last new novel or the last old one you have read, the most recent scientific discovery, the new opera of the season or any topic in which your hearers are likely to be interested. It will not usually be necessary to do much talking yourself. You may start the ball rolling by introducing a subject, perhaps by asking a question of some one who is well informed about it. Such a person is usually glad to tell something of what he knows. Should the hostess notice a reluctance on his part to talk, she will not of course urge him to do so. He may have special reasons for remaining silent.

People do not usually like to say much about their business or profession, lest they be accused of talking shop or of being egotistical. If our hostess has noticed in the course of her reading any curious little incident, if she has recently heard some clever or amusing speech or a new story, she may like to retail this to the company. It is an art to tell a story well and one that should be

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cultivated. The lady of the house, as ruler of the occasion, will endeavor to prevent the talk from running too much to anecdote. A few stories brighten conversation, but an excess tends to produce silence, because there is no continuity between them, no thread of connection on which to hang farther talk. There is always the danger that some of the guests will have heard the story before, but this one cannot wholly avoid. It is a good rule to tell only those stories which one has heard recently, or which one has good reason to suppose will be new to the company.

A watchful hostess will try to change the subject if she thinks it has lasted long enough, or if the discussion is becoming heated. All this she must do with great delicacy, speaking as if the new subject were something that had just occurred to her mind. It would never do for her to appear to dictate to her guests or to rebuke them in any way; neither must she appear pedantic nor anxious to display her own knowledge. Painful themes she will endeavor to avoid and if religious or political topics come up for discussion, she will try to prevent the

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conversation from taking a tone likely to be offensive to some member of the company. If some one criticizes Methodism in the presence of one of its adherents, she will hasten to say, "Mr. So-and-so is a Methodist, we must remember." Or if the relative of a guest is discussed, she will remind the company of the relationship, unless something has already been said which would make such a revelation awkward.

Should a tiresome person be inclined to take more than his fair share of the conversation, she will try, should a good occasion offer, to draw out a more agreeable guest and to induce him to talk. She will here be treading on dangerous ground, as the tedious talker may take offence. Hence she will not meddle unless it seems necessary to rescue her guests from a flood of dullness.

It has been well said that success in entertaining is accomplished by magnetism and tact. The first is a natural gift; the second can be cultivated and increases with one's social experience. A young hostess can take comfort in Emerson's saying, that women if not the queens are the law-givers in conver-

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sation. By this the Sage of Concord meant that we should not attempt to be absolute rulers, and thus make ourselves heartily disliked, but should study the laws governing the art of conversation, for the administration of which we have a natural aptitude. Since silence at a dinner-party tends to throw gloom over the occasion, it is best not to meddle too much with the flow of talk, lest we stop it entirely. Some regrettable speeches may be made, but we can no more avoid these altogether than other dangers in the path of life.

In our large cities it is becoming customary for people of wealth to hire professional entertainers when they give a dinner party. After leaving the table the guests listen to songs or arias rendered by concert or opera singers, to readings or recitations. Or they may have their fortunes told by a palmist or watch the graceful movements of a trained dancer.

The devotees of Bridge often retire to the card-table at the conclusion of a dinner and spend the remainder of the evening playing their favorite game.

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The invitations to an informal dinner are sometimes given verbally or over the telephone. The advantage of the written note is that it presents a reminder of the exact day and hour. For a formal dinner, written or engraved invitations are always used. These are issued as long in advance as may be necessary to secure the desired guests, two weeks or even more, in large cities in the height of the gay season. Our hostess will of course remember that she must not invite a wife without her husband or vice-versa, to any occasion to which both men and women are asked. As the space at table is necessarily limited, it is perfectly allowable and even customary to invite a sister without her brother, or one of several sisters or brothers. A guest may also be asked without her hosts, although it is kinder and more polite to include the latter if possible. Hard feeling is sometimes engendered by these omissions, as in the case of a distinguished visitor who is invited to many social functions, no attention being paid to the family of her entertainers.

The advantage of sending out dinner invitations in good season is that one thus has

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time to invite other persons, should some of those asked in the first instance send regrets. Occasionally the hostess is obliged, almost at the last moment, to fill a place unexpectedly left vacant. She must then turn to a relative or a friend whom she knows well, for it is not considered a compliment to ask a person to "fill in" at the eleventh hour. A good-natured man or woman is often willing thus to oblige a friend or an acquaintance. The hostess should frankly say to such a person that some one has disappointed her, and that it will be a great favor to her if Mr. So-and-so will kindly consent to fill the vacant place. She should be careful to show her sense of obligation by inviting him among the first, the next time she is able to do so, unless he is such a good friend as to make this unnecessary.

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CHAPTER X

THE DAY OF THE DINNER

THE hour chosen for the dinner must depend on local custom and on the circumstances of the case. In New York with its great distances, the tendency is to make the meal come later and later, for the convenience of business men and also no doubt, in imitation of English fashions. Eight o'clock is the time usually set for a large and formal dinner, and sometimes half past eight is preferred; for a simpler occasion the invitations would be for seven or for half after seven o'clock. In smaller cities, hours are usually earlier. In suburban towns, where the men must rise early in order to take a train to the neighboring metropolis, it would be manifestly inconvenient to make the evening meal very late. In imitating the English, it would be an excellent thing if we should

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copy their spirit of independence, which makes them do what seems best and fittest to themselves without regard for the ways of other nations. While we consider ourselves the freest people on earth, we are too often subservient to the opinions of others. Americans are greater slaves to fashion than any other nation on the face of the globe. We do not dare to wear clothes that are at all out of style, but foolishly buy new ones, whether we can afford them or not, with every change of fashion. A nation of workers and the citizens of a democracy, we try to pattern our lives socially after the manners of a ruling leisure class in a country where aristocratic traditions are firmly intrenched by primogeniture and the tenure of landed estates. Let us by all means copy the graces and refinements of life, wherever we can find them, but let us adapt them to our own noble traditions of democratic simplicity and to the conditions of life in these United States of America, the country of the future and of the present. Blind imitation of others does not befit the dignity of our great Republic in this twentieth century.

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Our hostess will be wise if she does not attempt to do too many things on the day when she expects guests to dinner. If she spends the afternoon shopping or making a round of calls, she may be weary before the arrival of her friends, or she may not have time to give the necessary attention to the preparations for their reception. In order to make a dinner a delightful occasion, the lady of the house must be at her best, fresh and in good spirits. Said a distinguished American to an intimate friend with whom he had dined a short time before, "Don't let Mrs. X look so extremely anxious when she entertains." Mrs. X looked anxious because she felt so, thereby throwing a damper of which she was unconscious, on the spirits of the company. I am glad to add that after a little experience she learned to be a most delightful hostess. She soon came to understand that, in order to make her guests have a pleasant time, the mistress of the house must not attempt more than she and her household can manage without worry. It is better to have fewer persons present or fewer courses than to lose one's astral calm.

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Carelessness is in some respects worse than over-anxiety, since we are all more ready to forgive a person for paying too much attention to our needs than for neglecting them. In order to be an ideal hostess one should exercise forethought and endeavor to make all her preparations in good season. Having done her best, she will meet her guests with serenity, remembering that food is the least important part of hospitality. To greet them with cordiality, to make them welcome beneath her roof and show them that their presence there gives her real pleasure, is her agreeable duty. The food which she sets before them is only the outward and visible sign of the inward feeling. It is one way of showing the hospitable spirit of the host, but it is not the only way and is really of less consequence, if we consider the matter rightly, than the manner and bearing of the master and mistress of the house. We must not only greet our guests cordially, we must continue to manifest a hospitable attitude of mind toward them while they remain with us.

For these reasons, as well as for her own

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comfort, our hostess and if possible our host also, should be ready and in the drawing-room a little before the appointed time. This is especially necessary if friends are expected from a distance, since they will not be able to calculate the hour of their arrival so exactly as neighbors can, and they will naturally wish to avoid being late. If a guest makes her appearance before the lady of the house has finished dressing, the latter will almost certainly experience a feeling of annoyance, even though she knows it is her own fault for not being ready sooner. Therefore in order that the spirit of hospitality may not be thus unfortunately checked at the very outset, everything should be in readiness for the reception of the guests, ten or fifteen minutes before the hour appointed. It is now considered smart to prepare places downstairs, where the guests can leave their things. An impromptu dressing room, with toilet appliances, may be arranged behind a screen for the ladies, unless there is a reception room suitable for the purpose. The gentlemen are asked to leave their hats and coats in a hall where there is a mirror.

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At a large and ceremonious dinner, each lady's name is written on a diminutive card and enclosed in an envelope directed to the gentleman who is to take her in to the dining-room. These missives are left in the men's dressing room or handed on a small salver to the guests on their arrival.

According to the English custom, a low-cut dress is the proper costume for late dinner, as for evening wear in general. Much must depend on local usage, however. In many parts of our country, only young girls wear full low-neck, older ladies preferring a modification of this. A host will take into consideration the probable costume of his guests. For a large and formal dinner, he would unhesitatingly wear the regulation swallow-tail coat. For smaller occasions he would ask himself, "What will my friends wear?" A host never wishes to be so arrayed as to eclipse his guests or to make them feel uncomfortable. Fortunately the dinner-jacket or Tuxedo coat, worn with a black tie, presents a compromise, since it is not exactly full dress and yet is reserved for informal evening wear.

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The hostess will be careful to introduce each gentleman to the lady whom he is to take in to dinner, unless they are already acquainted. If the gathering is a small one, she will introduce all the guests to each other, doing so quietly and one or two at a time. While it is the undoubted prerogative of the lady of the house to introduce any of the guests under her roof, she may not always think it best to do so. It is a rule of good-breeding neither to make nor to withhold introductions where this would cause awkwardness. Thus it is manifestly unpleasant for one person to be presented to five or six other guests as soon as he enters the room. He will not know which is which, he will bow to the wrong man or woman and the result will be a feeling of constraint. On the other hand, if he knows no one, he will feel ill at ease and out of place. Therefore a wise hostess watches her guests and introduces them as occasion demands, endeavoring to have no one feel neglected. The English rule, whereby all guests feel at liberty to speak to each other at the house of a friend, whether they have been introduced or not,

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does not find general favor with us, although it has been adopted to a certain extent.

If only a few friends are expected and they come punctually, it will be possible to sit down to table soon after the appointed hour. If there are many guests, dinner should be ordered fifteen minutes later than the hour named in the invitations. The hostess will be apt to wait ten or fifteen minutes longer for some one who has been detained, unless the company are going afterward to the opera or some entertainment which makes delay inadvisable. One must not sacrifice the pleasure or convenience of the punctual guests to that of late-comers.

Our hostess should tell the waitress beforehand how many persons are expected, in order that the latter may know when she may announce dinner. If the dining-room adjoins the drawing-room, she may do this simply by throwing aside the portières or opening the folding doors, as the case may demand. Or she may enter quietly and make a slight bow to her mistress, or say "Dinner is served." The host offers his arm to the lady in whose honor the entertainment is

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given, to the oldest or most distinguished lady, to the wife of the most distinguished man or to a bride. In Washington, as in European countries, the order of precedence is considered of great importance, and all hostesses take great pains to give each person his due rank. This is entirely proper because at the seat of our national government, we must pay due respect to the office-holders who represent the dignity of the nation, as well as to the representatives of foreign governments. In other parts of the United States, we do not pay much attention to this matter, the theory being that in a Democratic country all are equal. When the Governor of a State, a United States Senator, the Mayor of the city or other person holding high political office, is present, the hosts will be careful to give him the chief room at the feast, however. He will come last with the hostess, the other guests having preceded them, going in arm in arm. As a rule the hostess goes in with the most distinguished man present or with the guest of honor of the occasion, mine host escorting the wife of the latter. At a small and informal dinner

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the ceremony of going in arm-in-arm can be dispensed with.

In the chapter on Luncheons we have already given some hints for the arrangement of the table.

A new and ingenious scheme of decoration upsets all the ideas to which we have become accustomed. Where this is used, ornamental silver is banished to the plate chest and the table is arranged to represent a formal garden. In the centre is a miniature reproduction of a fountain at Versailles, for instance. A mirror represents the surface of the water which is bordered by a coping of *biscuit,* majolica or other ware, by way of edge to the basin. The projecting figures of horses, Tritons or what not, are cut in half, thus conveying the impression that they are partly concealed by the water. Some opulent hosts have actually placed mimic fountains of silver, that of Apollo at Versailles, for instance, throwing jets of real water, on their tables, the mechanism being concealed below, but this device is too troublesome as well as too expensive, to come into general use. Gravelled paths (which may be made

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from sand paper) with formal box borders, radiate from the centre and terminate in Tanagra figurines in imitation of garden statuary. Those made of *biscuit* look very much like white marble. They may be replaced or supplemented by miniature orange trees in china pots. The last-named are made of Italian pottery and offer a wide scope for the display of artistic taste and ingenuity. Some are in the form of a beautiful vase decorated with a tiny garland of roses, others are of plain green ware. Occasionally in the house of some Croesus, the oranges themselves are illuminated by tiny electric bulbs placed inside the fruit.

The miniature trees in their dainty pots form an important part of the decorative scheme and may be set about the table at appropriate points, keeping in view always, the general plan of reproducing an Italian or French garden. The paths also may be arranged in other ways. For simpler dinners, a centre piece of formal greenery, with four cut bay trees at the corners may be used.

These decorations are pretty and charming toys for grown-up people. The whole

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scheme is highly artificial and has replaced natural flowers and greenery to a certain extent. It is safe to predict that the latter will always remain in favor with many people, especially in the summer season, when it seems a pity not to use the wealth of beautiful blossoms at our very doors.

A simple name card at each place is now preferred to the elaborate affairs so fashionable at one time.

For dinner there must always be a cloth, a plain white one being usually preferred. If a lace cloth is put over this, no centre-piece should be used. In other respects all will be much the same as at a formal lunch, save that soup will be served in plates instead of cups; if butter is used, there should be small individual plates for it instead of the larger ones used for bread and butter at lunch. Strictly speaking, butter should not be put on the table at dinner, but we do see it on informal occasions where people are very fond of it.

Raw oysters or little-neck clams in their season were at one time the usual first course at dinner, but are not so much in favor now

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as many persons are afraid to eat them, owing to the danger of thus contracting typhoid fever. Grape-fruit often replaces them, or later in the season strawberries, melons or other fruit. An informal dinner often begins with soup. According to present fashion, this is served from the pantry, the servant bringing in a plate in either hand. After the soup the regular order of service is — fish, one or more entrées, the roast (filet of beef is much liked), salad with or without game. Next come the sweet dishes, ices, méringues, pudding, pie, wine jelly or whatever is preferred. Fruit, candies and black coffee follow, the latter being served in the drawing-room.

This order of the repast has been copied from the French, but the number of courses and the consequent great amount of plate-washing involved, make it entirely unsuited to small establishments. In a country like ours where labor is so dear, the wisest course is to adopt the elegance of the French only so far as it is suited to our circumstances. Thus our hostess may copy Gallic custom in having only one or at most two vegetables

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served with any one course. The little birds' bath-tubs, as the annex dishes have been nicknamed, are not at all "good form." The fashion of having all dishes carved in the butler's pantry or kitchen is entirely unsuited to a family where only one servant is kept, for it would delay the service too much. Some persons prefer to carve themselves, even where there are several servants. It gives a certain look of hospitality to have the traditional beef of Old England and of New England too for that matter, smoking on a platter of generous size set before the host and to behold him ministering in person to the wants of his guests.

The mistress of the house may like to dispense the ice or pudding for the same reason. Where host and hostess take no part, allowing everything to be done by those in attendance, the personal element of service seems altogether wanting. According to old-fashioned ideas, one might as well dine at a hotel. One great advantage of the modern plan is that it leaves the hosts free to give their undivided attention to the entertainment of the company. Each method has its advantages.

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Wine has been going out of fashion for some years. Many people do not take it for fear of gout or rheumatism, while a wave of temperance is spreading over large sections of our country. Those who are principled against wine in any form are not expected to set it before their friends. In that case the dinner should not be a long and heavy one, for many persons hold, whether rightly or wrongly I do not pretend to say, that wine is a necessary aid to the digestion of such a meal. It is the fashion to offer fewer varieties than formerly, white wine and champagne or claret or champagne alone sufficing. At dinners for married people a mild cocktail is sometimes given. In this case there is no wine, whiskey and water being offered to the men. Apollinaris water makes a very good beverage for dinner or luncheon.

For a small and friendly occasion, the bill-of-fare may comprise soup, a roast of some sort with one or two vegetables, lettuce or other salad with French dressing, a nice homemade dessert and coffee. Soup is an important part of dinner except in hot weather when it is almost too heating. In

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summer we especially enjoy salads, fruit and other articles of food that are cooling.

The hostess will remember to give the sign for rising to the lady seated at her husband's right hand. The men may prefer to linger awhile at table after the departure of the ladies, and mine host will not forget to have a supply of cigars on hand for their use. With the more temperate habits of our day, it is customary for men to make only a short delay before joining the ladies in the drawing-room. A little music, not too serious in character, makes a pleasant ending to the evening, unless some other programme has been arranged or unless the guests are "going on" to another entertainment.

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CHAPTER XI

DANCES



HE love of dancing seems to be innate in the heart of Man. Let the most wretched hand-organ begin to play and at once the children of the neighborhood, be it rich or poor, will fall to capering about in time to the music, if they are allowed to do as they please. Thus did primitive men dance, first as an act of worship and later for the pure joy of the rhythmic motion. All young people, all who have music in their souls at least, are fond of this form of amusement, although they may hesitate to take part in it in public, unless they have acquired some knowledge of the art of dancing beforehand. Girls, most of whom seem to "dance by nature," are inclined to be critical of the saltatory efforts of young men, and the beginner is all the more awkward in his gyra-

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tions because he is keenly aware of this feminine criticism, even if no word of it is spoken. When he has once mastered the Terpsichorean Art a magnificent revenge is in his power. Cannot he refuse to dance with any of the girls who have smiled at his humble beginnings, and so reduce them to despair? Next to being the head boy at school, there is no prouder position in human society than that of the accomplished and fashionable leader of the german.

The hostess who plans giving a dance can usually count on the cordial interest and coöperation of the young women of her acquaintance, provided she can secure the attendance of a sufficient number of "Dancing Men." Indeed many girls will carry their disinterestedness so far as to be willing to give lessons, in the seclusion of their own drawing-rooms, to ambitious but awkward swains. Many a young fellow has been thus coached into a sufficient semblance of grace to enable him to appear passably in public, after a few lessons, perhaps supplemented by waltzing with a chair in the privacy of his own apartment.

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The men who refuse to enter the lists at a dance without preliminary practice are entirely in the right, for an unskilful dancer makes his partner appear awkward as well as himself, besides running the risk of painful and disastrous collisions with other couples. Unfortunately those who have not the excuse of inexperience sometimes stand looking idly on, instead of joining the dancers. Perhaps they cannot secure the partners they prefer, or they are not in the mood. In a word, their behavior is a survival of the manners of boys at dancing school, manners that are so sadly familiar to all mothers who have dragged unwilling sons to dancing classes, only to see them decorate the benches on the masculine side of the hall. It is a part of the hostess' duty to try to overcome this vis inertiæ of the young men and in this her whole family, husband, sons and daughters, should assist her. A cheerful yet resolute attitude of mind will be found of great assistance.

When a lady has invited a number of young men and maidens to dance and have a good time at her house, she has a right to

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assume that they mean to do their share toward the success of the entertainment, and to show by her manner that she expects them to enter into the spirit of the occasion. The hostess gives the tone to all festivities and if she is amiable, gay and energetic, most of her guests will have the courtesy and good feeling to respond in the same key. It goes without saying that she must not appear masterful nor be too persistent. Her efforts must be tactful and she should be cheerfully persuasive rather than dictatorial. Men instinctively resent the assumption of a tone of mastery by a woman, while they are usually glad to respond to an appeal to their chivalry and courtesy.

Since the hostess cannot leave her place so long as her guests are arriving, she usually asks two or more friends to help her receive and to make the necessary introductions at a large dance. These assistant hostesses should be ladies of social tact and experience, who know most of those present. A number of young men possessing similar qualifications are sometimes asked to see that all are provided with partners and to intro-

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duce people. It is a part of their duty to see that the men who can not dance at least make themselves agreeable by talking, waiting on the ladies at supper-time, etc. Whether a man can dance or not, he can promenade with a partner between the numbers and he can escort some lady in to supper. It is so dreary for a young girl to be obliged to sit quiet while her companions are having a delightful time, it becomes so mortifying if she is left long in this painful position, that the hosts and their assistants should make every effort to prevent their guests from lapsing into the condition of wall-flowers. A girl may be a good dancer, indeed she may be very charming in every way, but if she knows few of the men present, she must inevitably sit still unless someone comes to her assistance and introduces partners to her. All this requires a certain delicacy of management. No girl of proper spirit likes to be considered an object of social charity. If a good-natured but tactless hostess should say within her hearing, "I wish you would let me introduce you to Miss G—. She has been sitting alone for several dances and she

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is really a very charming girl," Miss G— would feel mortified, and the young man might hesitate to make the acquaintance of a seemingly unpopular person. Whereas if the lady of the house says: "I want you to meet Miss G—; she dances beautifully, but she knows very few people here to-night," or "She is a great favorite with all who know her," the young man will be much more inclined to make her acquaintance.

These awkward moments are not so likely to arise where the mothers are invited with their daughters. If a girl is not dancing she can sit quietly beside her mother until her next partner comes to claim her. Unfortunately most private houses are too small to accommodate many persons in addition to the dancers. If our hostess does not invite the mothers, she should at least ask a number of older ladies to be present and act as chaperones, whenever this is necessary. Seats should of course be provided for those who do not dance and a few for those who do, but who may wish to rest from time to time.

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It has been said that the invitations for a dance should include ten per cent more men than women, but this would often be impossible in a small place. A hostess should endeavor to have the number as nearly even as possible, with a slight preponderance of men. Where the latter are greatly in excess, they are apt to gather in a solemn black-coated group near the door or at some coign of vantage. Once assembled together, they remember the power that lies in mere numbers and too often resist all efforts to dislodge them, whereas singly they would be as meek as lambs.

Some of the merriest dances are impromptu affairs got up on the spur of the moment, at the end of a dinner or some other entertainment. If the girls outnumber the men, they will be willing to dance together at such a frolic, while even the man with a Quaker foot will be tempted to join in the lively Virginia Reel.

In addition to a sufficient number of youths and maidens to give spirit to the occasion, the most important requisites for a successful dance are a good floor, a large

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and well-ventilated room or hall, enough light to be cheerful but not dazzling, and last but not least, good music. A hard-wood floor, well waxed or oiled but not made too slippery, is the best for dancing. All small mats should be removed from this, for there is nothing so treacherous as a woolen or fur rug on a smooth floor. Linen crash may be stretched over a carpeted room, but it must be tightly drawn and securely fastened down. An ordinary floor, if it is well laid, is sometimes used for dancing. The old fashion was to relieve the bareness by drawing ornaments in chalk. I have seen the floor of the Naval Academy at Newport thus adorned with mathematical designs.

The question of space is very important. Americans dance well and rapidly. Their style of movement, easy, graceful and along large lines, corresponds one may fancy, to the long distances and great open spaces of an immense and sparsely settled continent. The Englishman, belonging to a large population set compactly down on a small island, does not expect to move in the same broad free way. He is quite content to revolve

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mildly and slowly in the midst of a crowd, turning around always in the same direction, because there is not room to do anything else. The American moves with more dash and he despises monotony — he knows how to reverse when dancing and he requires the space necessary to do so. Hence he enjoys dances given in an assembly room or in a large hall more than those in a private house, unless the latter is exceptionally spacious. Many hostesses in large cities hire assembly rooms when they give a ball. This is infinitely better than overcrowding one's dwelling and making everybody uncomfortable, although an entertainment in a private house has an atmosphere of hospitality which is hard to replace in a public or semi-public hostelry.

If our hostess decides to give a dance at her own residence, she must be careful to invite only so many people as her rooms will accommodate comfortably. She will use every available inch of space, removing all superfluous furniture and especially all bric-a-brac and light objects liable to be overturned by the rapidly moving dancers.

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She may, if she likes, provide a card-room for the elders, but experience shows that few persons can be persuaded to remain away from the main scene of action. The pleasure of watching others dance comes next to that of dancing one's self. The whole house should be well aired before the arrival of the guests, and the rooms should be cool rather than warm at the beginning of the evening, as they will heat up rapidly with the lights and the presence of many people. Electricity is preferable to gas because it is less heating, and the lights should be placed high in order that they may not be dazzling to the eyes. Flowers add much to the beauty of the occasion, but it is in better taste to have a moderate display rather than one which will excite a great deal of comment. The furniture of a lady's house, like her dress, should be in proportion to her means, with a leaning to simplicity rather than to ostentation. Neither should be so showy as to attract particular attention.

The number of musicians must depend on the size of the rooms and the formality of the occasion. For a small informal dance,

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the piano alone is often used. A professional player should be employed or at least some one who is accustomed to playing dance music. The time must be carefully marked and the music must be loud enough to be distinctly audible but not deafening. A violin, cornet, harp or 'cello may accompany the piano. The effect is more agreeable where only stringed instruments are used, perhaps with a cornet in addition, a group of from three to six musicians being seated in some convenient alcove screened off by palms or other greenery. The presence of the performers behind this "bosquet," as a wit laughingly called it, gives an air of festivity to any occasion, it must be confessed.

If there is to be a german, chairs should be hired for it unless, as in some large establishments, there is a supply of light chairs, all of the same pattern and suitable alike for a "Cotillion" or a "Musical." A set of numbered cards in duplicate should also be procured. The chairs should be tied together in couples and arranged against the wall while the guests are at supper, as the german usually begins immediately af-

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terwards. Each pair should have a number attached to it, the duplicate numbers being given to the gentlemen who are to take part in the cotillion. The distribution is usually made by the leader of the german or the guests may draw the cards from a basket.

The hostess should also provide several sets of favors, as these add much to the interest and picturesqueness of the dance. A great variety of them can now be procured, something new being always liked if it is pretty. The lady of the house will do well to consult with the leader of the german before she lays in a stock of these dainty trifles. She should engage his services in plenty of time beforehand, taking care to select a person accustomed to fulfill the delicate duties of the position, and asking him to call and see her in order to arrange the details of the dance. We have already intimated that a popular leader is a person of great consequence and it is usually wise to entrust the reins to his competent hands. There are usually from three to six favor figures, the handsomest being reserved for the last.

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Unless the occasion is extremely informal, it is best to employ an experienced caterer who can make all the arrangements for the supper, and thus save the hostess a great deal of anxiety. She must, of course, have a definite agreement with him beforehand as to bill-of-fare and prices; otherwise the bills might be heavy or even extortionate. She will also find it well to have two or more of the caterer's men to wait upon the guests, with the assistance of the gentlemen present. Professional waiters not only give an air of greater elegance to an occasion, they are also more efficient, prompt and economical than amateurs and less likely to injure the ladies' dresses by spilling things on them. The simplest method is to serve the supper from a large table, handsomely decorated and well lighted. Or the guests may be seated at small tables and the supper served in courses. These are sometimes brought in and distributed about the rooms at the appointed time. This method requires more service (one competent waiter to eight or twelve persons seated at two tables), a greater number of courses and more space; it also takes more

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time. It is certainly more comfortable for the guests to eat at a table, where all the arrangements are well made. We would not advise the inexperienced hostess to try this form of service, unless she has the assistance of a thoroughly competent and experienced caterer.

In providing the supper our hosts should remember that dancing is hungry work and that young people have good appetites. They are not usually such epicures as their elders and are sometimes surprisingly indifferent to food, if they are having a delightful time. Something sustaining is required, such as salads and oysters or croquettes, something cooling also — ices and lemonade or other refreshing drinks. A more elaborate supper can be served if the lady of the house prefers. A bowl of lemonade or punch should stand in the hall or in some convenient spot throughout the evening. A second supper, in which bouillon should be included, is sometimes served for those who dance the german.

In cities it is usual to provide a carpet and an awning over the sidewalk and steps,

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also a man to open the doors of the carriages, give duplicate checks to the occupants and their drivers and summon the latter at the close of the entertainment. The host should not forget to let this functionary know at what hour carriages should be ordered. Some one should be stationed at the door in order that the guests may be admitted without delay.

A dressing-room or rooms for the ladies and one or more for the men should be provided. One or more persons should be stationed in the former to help remove the wraps. Checks for these are sometimes used, if many guests are expected. An array of toilette appliances should be on the dressing-table, by no means forgetting pins, needles and thread. Dreadful accidents sometimes happen to ball dresses, from rash intruding feet, and the thoughtful hostess who insists that a maid shall be in attendance throughout the evening, to repair damages to the toilettes of the guests, may earn the heartfelt gratitude of " maidens all forlorn " with skirts all tattered and torn. If dance-cards with pencils attached are provided, they are

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placed in the dressing-rooms or are handed on a tray just outside the door of the drawing-room. In the dressing-room for the men, cigars and effervescent waters are sometimes found.

Our hostess will carefully consider the customs of the town or city where she lives before deciding whether she will have her guests formally announced. The custom is growing in favor and where the man-servant stationed at the door makes the announcement, as it should be made, in clear and distinct tones, it is a decided help to the lady of the house, when many guests are expected. She is thus enabled to identify quickly persons with whose faces she is not very familiar or whom she may not know by sight. To those unused to this custom however, it seems extremely stiff and formal. A hospitable hostess hesitates to introduce usages new to the place and savoring of a formality that may not be pleasing to her guests. She should shake hands with all, thus assuring them of a personal welcome. If she has daughters, they usually stand beside her and are presented to all whom they

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do not already know. Sometimes only the débutante daughter, in whose honor the dance is given, stands by her mother. Mine host may help his wife to welcome their guests, if he wishes to do so. If she has asked friends to receive with her, she places them at her side and presents to them everyone whom they do not know.

When the dancing begins, the daughters leave their position to join in it, returning between the numbers to their places in the receiving line, so long as the guests continue to come. The hostess must remain at her post until all have arrived. If she is young and fond of dancing, she may take part in it if she wishes, later in the evening, provided she does not neglect her guests. She should see that all the young girls have partners before she joins the dancers; otherwise she will appear selfish and inconsiderate. Thus a certain young hostess at a popular summer resort roused the ire of the matrons by her indifference to the pleasure of her guests. She passed the evening in alternately dancing and rushing up and down her piazza to cool off. Of course such conduct is ex-

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tremely ill-bred as well as selfish. As we have said before, the host and the sons and daughters of the house should make every effort to provide their young guests with partners. It would not look well for the young hostesses to dance continuously where there were not partners enough for all, while it would not be expected that they should refrain from dancing altogether.

When the hour for supper arrives, the doors of the dining-room are thrown open and the musicians play a march. Mine host leads the way, taking in the oldest or the most distinguished lady present. The rest of the company follow with little formality. The hostess needs to be especially watchful at this time, to see that all the ladies are provided with escorts so far as possible and that all find their way to the supper-room. Where the service is at small tables under the charge of an experienced caterer, she may dismiss anxiety from her mind and take her seat at the table provided for the hosts and such guests as they wish especially to distinguish.

The hour for the dance will depend upon

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local custom. In recent years balls in our large cities have begun and ended at absurdly late hours. The Cinderella dances, closing at midnight, mark a sensible movement in the other direction. A wise hostess will, for the sake of all concerned, try to make the hours as early as she can. Where a single frolic is in question, it does not so much matter. It does not kill any one to sit up late once in a while. But where there is a round of gayety, everybody becomes completely exhausted and a pain is too often made of a pleasure. The girls lose their bloom and look weary and faded. It is even harder for their partners, who are usually obliged to arise betimes next morning, in order to attend to business. If the dance extends beyond midnight, it should not last later than two or at the outside three o'clock.

When the party breaks up, the host will give all necessary assistance to ladies who are without escort. He will see that their carriages are called and assist them to get in, or telephone for tardy vehicles. It often happens that someone's carriage is very late,

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especially in a small place where one or two livery stables are obliged to supply a large demand. This is equally trying for hostess and guest, but there is nothing to do except to wait good-humoredly till the expected vehicle arrives.

A dinner dance is a pleasant form of entertainment and easy for the hostess in some ways since it can be quite informal. It entails the additional trouble of entertaining a number of guests at dinner, it is true, and of issuing two sets of invitations, one to those who are asked to dine and another to those who are expected to come later for the dance. There is also the possibility that those who are asked for the latter only may take umbrage. They ought not to do so, for manifestly there cannot be room for all at the table, but human beings are frequently unreasonable. A combination dinner dance happily avoids the necessity of making any invidious distinction between the guests. Several ladies combine, each giving a dinner at her own residence. The guests may be seated at one large table or at several small ones, according to the number present

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and the convenience of the hostess. Later in the evening they are conveyed to the house of the lady who is to give the dinner dance. This is usually a cotillion, supper following in due course. Or the last hostess may prefer to entertain her friends at a hall or at assembly rooms and thus offer more space for dancing.

Our young matron should remember that the word "ball" must never be used in her invitations. She may "request the pleasure" or use the "At Home" form, as she prefers, with "Dancing" in the lower left-hand corner, or "Cotillion" if that dance is to occupy the evening. The hour when it is to begin is usually mentioned, as "Cotillion at ten." For an informal dance, the hostess may write a friendly note in the first person or write more formally in the third if she prefers. The telephone is often used to invite friends to an impromptu occasion arranged at short notice.

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PART III

CHAPTER XII

TWENTIETH CENTURY COSTUME DANCES AND MASKED BALLS



OSTUME parties and dances are always popular and need not be expensive. Indeed it is a great deal more fun to plan and arrange one's own dress, than to hire everything ready-made from the costumer. A party of young people often find infinite amusement in ransacking the family wardrobes and the old trunks in the attic, for odds and ends of apparel with which to make up the different characters. The trying-on of Grandmother's silk pelisse or Grandfather's blue wedding coat, all brave with brass buttons, but absurdly short in the waist, is a part of the fun. Nothing is more quaint than an old fashion plate and antiquated styles of

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dress strike us as ridiculous unless they are exceptionally picturesque. Hence the perennial popularity of Old Folks' Concerts or Spelling Bees in which all the performers appear in the curious, ugly costumes of the early 19th century. For more formal occasions, such as Fancy Dress Balls and Artists' Festivals, a serious study of costume is often made. The shelves of reference libraries are ransacked for colored plates and old engravings, and the figures in these are reproduced as nearly as possible, with the aid of a skilful dressmaker. In order to show the costumes to advantage, special quadrilles and other dances are arranged in which all who take part are dressed alike, or wear costumes of the same period. Thus we have a Louis Quinze or a Mary Queen of Scots set, a Hunt quadrille, a Spanish dance or a Colonial minuet.

Masked balls afford a great deal of fun but need to be conducted with extreme care, in order to prevent the intrusion of uninvited guests or undesirable persons. At private masquerades, the gentlemen are often asked to show their faces to the host, at the begin-

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ning of the evening "As an evidence of good faith." Sometimes only the ladies appear in disguise. Fancy dress is often worn on these occasions, dominoes and masks being laid aside at supper time.

THE AUTOMOBILE BALL

is a new form of masquerade appropriate to the twentieth century. In lieu of the ordinary dominoes and masks, all wear huge goggles with lace or silk ruffle falling below and long dust cloaks. The ladies have large motor veils of any color they prefer, tied around their heads or worn loosely about their necks as scarfs. Some wear hats tied down at the sides in the usual fashion. The men appear in the regulation motoring cap. The musicians are provided with an automobile horn, whose "Honks" punctuate one or two dances in the course of the evening. The men may wear on their backs huge numbers like those attached to motor cars. It will add to the interest and amusement if they retain these after laying aside their disguise, as the maskers will thus be enabled to identify each other.

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may be made to furnish a great deal of amusement. The occasion is intended to present a picture of the happy state of things to be expected, when the principles of the Hague Conference, Universal Peace and Brotherhood, prevail throughout the World. People and ideas now strongly opposed to each other, are shown living together in perfect harmony, save for an occasional recollection of former differences of opinion. The programme begins with a grand march, the guests promenading in couples. They pass in review before their hostess, the Spirit of Peace, who is robed in classic drapery and crowned with laurel. She sits on a slightly raised dais, bearing a palm in her hand. The Emperor of Russia comes first, with the Douma leaning on his arm. This part is personated by a young woman dressed as a Russian peasant, wearing a sash with "Douma" printed on it in large letters. President Taft smiling blandly and William J. Bryan bearing the orator's scroll, follow arm-in-arm. Emperor William and the

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President of France appear side by side, looking lovingly at each other. The Canal Zone, a lady wearing hoop skirts, with a wide stiff band around the bottom to represent the zone, walks with an anti-imperialist. The last named has his hands full of pamphlets which he scatters among the audience. Uncle Sam escorts Nicaragua, while the State of California languishes on the arm of a Chinaman and Columbia is paired off with the Yellow Peril. The other nations of the earth, dressed in appropriate costume, complete the political part of the procession.

The fair automobilist with veil and goggles, marches with her late enemy, the rural policeman. He is made up like a rustic with red chin beard, a constable's badge, helmet and stick showing his authority. The housekeeper and the Beef Trust may come next, succeeded by the lion and the lamb, a very large man representing the king of beasts and a very small woman his partner. Cotton wool sewed on muslin cloth, with pointed ears of cardboard, will give something of a sheep's head effect. Andrew Carnegie, bearing a miniature library building under

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his arm, promenades with Gompers and a United States Custom House officer appears with a fair traveller just returned from Europe. A Wall Street Bull carries a large Teddy Bear with affectionate care.

Lieutenant Peary and Doctor Cook, rival Arctic explorers, go hand-in-hand, each bearing a North Pole under his arm labelled "Mine." Or one may drag a sled and the other a pair of toy dogs. After the march come a series of harmony dances, performed by the chief couples in turn. Thus Emperor William and the French President begin with deep bows; they dance toward each other with many gestures of friendliness. Soon the old hostility revives a little, frowns succeeding to smiles. Peace finally prevails and they skip off hand in hand. The last number on the programme is a millennial quadrille, terminating with all hands round and grand right and left.

THE BABY PARTY

The colored supplements of the Sunday newspapers have suggested another novelty,

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the Baby Party. This may take the form of a dinner to which all the young guests come, dressed like little Boy Blue, Bo-Peep, Buster Brown or other infant prodigies of the Daily Press. Enough persons are usually invited to make up a dance afterward without the addition of other guests.

In the succeeding chapter (Musicals and Private Theatricals) some new fancy dances are described.

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CHAPTER XIII

MUSICALS AND PRIVATE THEATRICALS

IF a lady is fond of music and has friends who can assist her, she may like to give a Musical. The requirements for this are greater than they formerly were. With the development of taste and the increase of musical culture among our people, a higher standard of excellence is demanded of the performers. A hostess therefore, needs to have a knowledge of her subject in addition to a love of sweet sounds. Indeed so exacting have conditions become in our large cities, that some ladies who were once in the habit of entertaining their friends with performances on the piano, for instance, no longer do so, thinking the latter have ceased to care to listen to amateurs. The mechanical excellence of the pianola, the Victor and other

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musical machines also tends to discourage the unprofessional singer and player. It would be a great mistake however, to abandon the cultivation of music, one of the greatest sources of innocent and elevating pleasure, in the home. Let us be modest by all means about displaying our small talents before large and critical audiences, but we may surely ask a few friends to share our pleasure when we have learned to do some simple thing really well. The rendering of florid operatic airs and difficult instrumental music may very properly be left to professional musicians. The amateur may practise these, but when he plays before company he should confine himself to something which he has mastered. The moment he attempts a piece involving difficult technique, his hearers will involuntarily institute a comparison between his performance and that of Paderewski or some other great artist. The modern amateur, unlike those of an earlier day, avoids concert pieces and chooses some simple little thing, some ballad perhaps, which charms by its sweetness, its pathos or its humor, or some popular song of the day.

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Our young hostess will endeavor to have her programme of this unostentatious character, cautioning the friends who are to help her against over-ambitious attempts. She will also try to fit her audience to her programme, inviting so far as possible those who love music, but not asking musical experts and critics of fastidious taste. To such persons any performance but the very best is often painful. Such a programme as we have indicated befits an informal occasion.

It may take place either in the afternoon or in the evening. If the former time is chosen, the affair will be conducted much like an afternoon tea, the guests sitting about as they please, the hostess remaining near the door, in order to greet quietly those who enter while the music is going on, and to signify to them by a sign that silence is to be maintained. The tendency of certain human beings to behave like canary birds, opening their mouths to chatter so soon as they hear the sound of music, will be one of the snags in the path of our hostess. In order to avoid this difficulty, she will only invite as many guests as can be comfortably accommodated

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in the room where the music is given. If they run over into the hall or into some other room where they cannot hear well, there will be a greater temptation to talk, especially as they will thus be removed from the immediate presence of the hostess.

For these reasons the dining-room will not be thrown open while the music is going on. Tea or some simple refreshments should be served, either in an intermission or at the close of the programme. This should not be very long and need not be continuous on an informal occasion. The guests can change their seats from time to time and all constraint be thus happily avoided. An evening musical may be of the same informal character. In an apartment or in a house where the rooms are small, it may not be practicable to confine the guests so strictly. Where they are scattered through several apartments the lady of the house or one of her friends should take the pains to visit these before the beginning of each number and say, "Miss So-and-so is going to sing now" or something of the sort, in order to ensure silence during the performance.

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People will of course talk between the numbers.

If a hostess can offer to her friends a more serious programme, rendered either by professional artists or by amateurs of considerable musical attainments, she may issue invitations for a more formal occasion. Here again she must beware of the proverbial jealousy of artists. She need not be surprised if Miss Slender, who has accepted an invitation to sing, should reconsider if the renowned Miss Warbler consents to take a place on the programme. Miss S. may feel that her light voice would be completely eclipsed by the more powerful tones of Miss W. Amateurs often object very properly to appearing with professionals. They might thus seem to arrogate to themselves a greater degree of proficiency than they really claim or possess. Your professional also has his views as to the class of performers with whom he is willing to appear. In addition to all this, the unity of the programme must be preserved; it must not consist of incongruous elements, however excellent each one may be in itself. Many of

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these difficulties were encountered by the writer when she undertook, in the rashness of youth, to get up an amateur concert. She suffered much anxiety and worry of mind, it is needless to say, but the project was finally carried through triumphantly, by the kindness of certain artists — some of them professional and others amateur — who consented to take part and who kept their promises.

As the singing voice is a very delicate thing and easily affected by the state of the owner's health, a hostess must not be offended if a singer, finding herself hoarse on the day of the entertainment, is obliged to send her excuses. To guard against such contingencies, it is well to have an understudy on one's list, or the other vocalists may kindly consent to render additional numbers and thus fill up the deficiencies in the programme.

It is against the rules of etiquette to ask a professional musician to sing or play without offering to compensate him for his services. One may be on such terms of intimacy or friendship as to make such a request

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proper, but one should remember that an artist's talent is his capital. To ask him to give it away is like requesting a merchant to present one with a barrel of flour or other commodity. A story is told of some thoughtless guests who, happening to meet a distinguished prima donna at an evening reception, urged her to sing. "I will do so if the master of the house asks me," was the reply. At the solicitation of the indiscreet guests, the host did make the request and the diva sang several times, making the same condition before each song. On the following day mine host received from her a bill for several hundred dollars.

In arranging the programme, our hostess should remember to put the best last, the less accomplished performers and simpler compositions coming first. The piano should be tuned and put in perfect order on the day of the musical or the day before. It may be necessary to hire an instrument if a distinguished pianist is to play. It should be placed at one end of the room, the seats being arranged so as to face it. Camp chairs or small light cane-seated chairs should be

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hired for the occasion. These should be placed in rows, with an aisle down the middle. One or two sofas or a few large comfortable seats should be left for the elderly ladies, to whom it might be distinctly unpleasant and fatiguing to sit on a small narrow creaking chair during an entire evening. If many guests are expected, the giver of the entertainment may like to ask one or two young friends to assist them in finding seats, especially after the rooms begin to fill up. Or if the musical is in the evening, the host may perform this duty. If the players are persons of strict views as to the interruption of musical performances, the hosts will try to guard against such a catastrophe. It might be well to station some one in the hall, who should intimate courteously to late comers the propriety of taking a seat there or in some adjoining room until the conclusion of the number.

Printed programmes may be provided or each number may be announced separately. In either case, it is better to omit the names of the performers, if they are amateurs. The musical programme should not last too

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long, not more than an hour and a half or two hours, including the time taken for the intermission. Allowance should be made for the delay caused by encores.

At the conclusion of the last piece, the camp chairs should be cleared away and refreshments served. It is usually best to have these in the dining-room, thus giving an opportunity to freshen the air of the music-room, while the guests will be glad to move about after their long session on camp chairs. Supper is sometimes served in the drawing-room at small tables, or ice-cream and coffee or some simple form of refreshment may be handed around. All will depend on the convenience and taste of the hostess.

PRIVATE THEATRICALS

Private theatricals afford so much fun to the actors and so much pleasure to the audience that they are well worth all the trouble they cost. To see one's friends changed almost beyond recognition by the costumer's art, to hear them recite long passages with glibness and ease, to find that Mary or John

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can really *act,* is always delightful and often surprising. These men and women who are so conventional and quiet in their every-day demeanor, who would have suspected the depth of feeling or the amount of fun which they display, when actually before the foot-lights and protected by a thorough disguise? Professional actors can of course simulate emotion, that is their business, but who would have thought that Samuel Jones, who goes so tamely to the Bank every day, had a touch of the sublime in his quiet disposition? The great charm of private theatricals is the hidden possibilities in our friends, in members of our own circle, which they reveal to our admiring eyes. The acting may not be very good but our imagination mends every defect, and it all comes home to us as an ordinary stage performance does not. Hence our hostess may count upon the sympathy and interest of the audience, whether the piece given be funny, sentimental or romantic. High tragedy should hardly be attempted by amateurs, unless they have unusual histrionic ability and the skill that comes from long training and experience.

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This is the pleasant side of private theatricals. Among its less agreeable features are the difficulty of distributing the rôles in a way to suit every one and the procrastination of the actors about learning their parts and cues. At first blush it would seem to be natural and proper to ask each person to assume the character suited to his appearance and capacity. If you should be so rash as to ask a middle-aged lady to take an old part, or a half-grown lad to assume the rôle of an awkward hobbledehoy, you would soon find out your mistake. The older woman will often be willing to play the ingénue, while some young girl may think it great fun to powder her hair, put on spectacles and act the old dame. Such conduct is not prompted by vanity pure and simple. No one wishes to appear on the stage just as he does in every-day life; it is easier to act under a disguise of some sort. As for the general desire to assume the chief parts and to avoid the smaller ones, this must be met by an amiable firmness. It is wise to ask somebody of experience in private theatricals to take

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the part of stage manager and to distribute the rôles in accordance with the ability and fitness of the performers. The chief characters should of course be taken by persons of dramatic experience. Our stage manager must use tact. He can remind his little troupe that the French, who are renowned for the excellence of their histrionic performances, consider it important to have all the rôles filled by artists and well acted.

Inducing all the actors to attend rehearsals regularly will be the next difficulty. This is especially necessary because experience shows that many amateurs will not take the trouble to memorize their parts beforehand, trusting to the drill of the rehearsals to fix the words firmly in their minds. Then there is the brilliant but lazy man who refuses to learn his lines thoroughly, because he knows he can improvise, if he forgets a sentence. A chief actor sometimes does this on the amateur stage, regardless of the nervous agony which he inflicts on his fellow players, who give him his cues but wait in vain for their own. A sufficient number of

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rehearsals and a competent prompter will counteract these eccentricities of genius in a great degree.

It is usual for each actor to provide his own costume, the host attending to the scenery and other stage furnishings. In most private houses it is hardly possible to have these on an elaborate scale. A good deal can be done with screens for scenery and some of these may be placed in the hall adjoining the stage, to cover the entrances and exits of the performers. The portières between two rooms are often used as a curtain, care being taken beforehand to see that they will pull aside quickly and easily. If there are footlights, the actors will need to "make up" with powder, rouge and a touch of black. Some member of the troupe or a friend can usually perform this office sufficiently well to satisfy the requirements of parlor dramatics. For more ambitious performances, a professional coach is often hired to drill the amateurs.

The office of stage manager is a very important one and needs a person of good memory, cool head and executive ability, to

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fill it properly. It is surprising how many questions arise at the last moment. Some one has forgotten to provide some absolutely necessary thing and a new arrangement must be made at once; a costume has failed to arrive by the promised train, and so on. Since the hosts will be busy receiving their guests, it is better that neither of them should attempt to take any active part in the performance, either as player or as manager. They will doubtless be called upon to fill in gaps and to supply substitutes for missing articles of costume or stage furniture. If they do wish to act, a sister or a friend must play the part of hostess, in order that the guests may not lack the first requirement of true hospitality, a cordial welcome.

A great drawback to the pleasure of witnessing parlor theatricals is the absence of a raised stage or platform. The audience, being on a level with the actors, cannot see the latter very well. For a monologue or for tableaux, a small platform can sometimes be borrowed from a neighboring school, church or hall. Tableaux are always popu-

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lar, except for the long delays which seem inevitable. These may be bridged over with music or recitations. In order to be really successful they should be arranged by an artist and there should be at least one rehearsal. A large dull-gilt frame, behind which a screen of black net is stretched, makes the best setting for the living pictures. It is wonderful what fine stage effects can be produced by a few bits of tinsel, old curtains or table-cloths of soft colors, odds and ends of bright ribbon or a hundred other commonplace objects of wearing apparel, if they are manipulated by the ingenious man or woman who possesses artistic taste and a keen eye for scenic effects.

It is well to have a certain unity in the programme. Thus some historic period may be chosen for illustration, such as the American Revolution, Venice or Florence at the time of the Renaissance, England in the days of Charles the First; or some popular poem or novel containing picturesque or dramatic situations may be selected. A few verses or passages may be read aloud in explanation of each scene. A "Gallery of

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Old Masters" is a favorite subject and gives excellent results when entrusted to competent hands. Charades may furnish a very amusing evening and can be easily arranged in such a way as to combine tableaux, recitations and acting in the programme. They may be wholly impromptu, or written beforehand by some one who is clever at such things. Where they are to be acted by bright people, it is not necessary to have everything fully memorized, a part of the fun being the extemporization. It is well to have the single scenes rehearsed once or twice beforehand, especially if there is much talking to be done. It is needless to say that monologues are now much in favor. The ever-popular Mrs. Jarley's Wax-works are really nothing but a monologue, with pantomimic illustration; "Portraits from an old album" are based on the same idea, that of a clever and garrulous woman exhibiting her wares to the public.

FANCY DANCES

Fancy dances are now so much admired that they often furnish an evening's enter-

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tainment, in conjunction with tableaux, a little farce or some other dramatic piece. Where a historic period is represented, the costumes of the dancers may well correspond with it. An evening of "Old Colony Times" seems to require the minuet to give it completeness, for we do not tire of this old dance, at once so graceful and so stately. The slowness of the movements cannot be compassed by everyone, some people finding it impossible to execute the figures with the necessary ease and grace. There is now such a variety of fancy dances that it is not difficult to find one suited to the style of the performer, quick or slow, with very little motion or with a great deal. They furnish good physical exercise and preserve the figure admirably it is said. Hence some young ladies begin the day with practising them in their rooms, just as people swung dumb-bells thirty or more years ago. Fifteen or twenty minutes devoted to the various steps will throw the performer into a perspiration. She then takes her "Tub" or shower bath like an athlete.

Some of the prettiest dances revive the

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stately movements and costumes of the eighteenth century.

THE LITTLE BLUE ONION DANCE

In this the lady is brought upon the stage in a sedan chair. The bearers set it down and the attendant cavalier opens the door for the "Fair," with a low bow. He wears a curled white periwig tied in a queue with a black ribbon, blue satin knee breeches, a diamond pin in his stock and buckles to match on his shoes. His white broad-skirted coat has around the edge, the conventional blue onion pattern as seen on china — hence the name of the dance. The lady's dress corresponds with that of her partner. Over a blue satin petticoat stiffened by large hoops worn beneath, comes a white dress looped back, with full pannier effect. The blue onion border surrounds the over-skirt, a white wig and black patches completing this charming costume. The daintily dressed couple go through a slow and graceful "Pas de Deux" after which the bearers return and the lady is carried off in her sedan chair.

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THE MOON DANCE

The Moon Dance needs a calcium light to give the proper effect. This is placed in the gallery in such a way as to throw a luminous disc upon the stage. A single dancer clad in soft clinging draperies goes through rhythmic steps and evolutions, keeping within the sphere of light and producing beautiful shadow effects.

PIERROT AND PIERRETTE DANCES

are popular, the costumes being pretty and simple. These are usually of some thick white material, with black rosettes or buttons, although many variations are made. The trimmings may be of some bright color instead of black, or the dress itself is sometimes pink or blue with black buttons. The traditional flat black cocked hat is decidedly picturesque.

A very pretty dance of this sort was given on the greensward of a country place at Newport not long ago. Twelve of the season's débutantes took part, six wearing black and white costumes in diamond (har-

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lequin) pattern, with ruffles of black lace. The other six wore dresses of different colors, pink, blue and yellow, with shoes and stockings to match and powdered hair. The evolutions of the young and pretty dancers made a charming color pattern on the soft green turf, the lofty trees of the garden forming a lovely green background.

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CHAPTER XIV

CARD PARTIES

"NO, I never play cards. I regard it as a waste of time. What do I do in the evening? Read of course, when I am at home. No, my eyes never get tired. Go to sleep over a book? Well yes, sometimes, if it is very dull — but a good nap is a good thing."

The person who made these remarks filled me with pity. How much innocent pleasure he had lost out of his own life! What sad disappointments had he caused to the friends rallying around the baize-covered table and hoping vainly for their accustomed game of cards, on a long winter evening! How dreary must have been his convalescence after an illness, with no solitaire to fill up the weary hours when reading was forbidden! Of course he believed fully in the

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old saying, "A youth of folly, an old age of cards." If he had known, as I have, men and women of unimpeachable character and great activity of mind and body to whom, as the evening of life drew on, cards were a real solace, he would have modified his views.

Perhaps he had been taught to associate card-playing with gambling, although there is no necessary connection between the two. Gambling is said to be the worst of all vices, because it makes people who are addicted to it so cruel, and because it is the hardest to cure. Within a few years the custom of playing cards for money has been revived among a certain set of people in this country, to the great regret of the more sober and thoughtful members of the community. Its hideous results have been well shown up in the "House of Mirth" and other current fiction. The fashion will not be a long-lived one, for its evil effects are so great and so apparent that they will not be tolerated long, one must think.

In the meantime every high-minded American woman should resolutely set her face against it and should not permit play-

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ing for money to be carried on beneath her roof. If she does allow it, she cannot escape responsibility for the evil consequences that so often follow, especially when those who take part in the gaming are young and impressionable people.

My readers may not all agree with me; some persons think it no harm to play for small sums, two cents a point for instance, although they object to high stakes. Hostesses who take this view are careful to have a separate table in readiness for the guests who do not play for money. It is always "good form" to do this, for manifestly a hostess must not urge her friends to take part in something of which they disapprove, yet she will not allow them to lose the pleasures of the evening if she can help it.

Many ladies provide prizes at their card parties and to this there would seem to be no reasonable objection, where the rewards of skill are not of great intrinsic value. If the prizes are very handsome and expensive, they often arouse an unhealthy emulation and excitement, perhaps jealousy and ill-will in addition. It is now thought better

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form to furnish articles of small cost, but attractive by their novelty or oddity. A hostess tries to find pretty and unique trifles for her card table. The fashion of not showing the prizes until the conclusion of the playing, is sensible and tends to prevent an undue feeling of rivalry between the players.

It is surely the duty of the lady of the house to arrange her party in such a way as to give pleasure to all, a thing which is impossible where some go away unduly elated and others disappointed and envious. The booby or consolation prizes, formerly the reward of the poorest players, are now often distributed by lot, so that all have a chance to win them.

Card tables, usually large enough to accommodate four persons, can be hired from caterers' establishments or furniture stores or borrowed from a friend who has been invited for the occasion. Ordinary small tables of suitable height and size may be pressed into service, provided a cloth is thrown over them, to prevent the cards from slipping. Since the players remain in their places for a considerable length of time (unless the

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game is progressive) it is important to give them comfortable seats and to have these of the proper height. Dining-room or light bed-room chairs are often used, or little gilt ones may be hired. Ordinary drawing-room chairs are apt to be too low and too cumbrous. There must be lights enough to enable every one to see the cards readily, but not to dazzle the players nor to overheat the room. For elderly people it may be necessary to place candles or lamps on a stand near by, but never on the card table itself. In the open window season of the year, the hostess will try to avoid exposing the players to drafts of air on their backs or shoulders. The cards must always be fresh and for a large party, new packs must be provided. It is a rule in men's clubs where the play is often for money, that the cards shall not be used a second time. Rather narrow plain cards are preferred, as those with gilt edges are liable to become tarnished and to stain the hands. For bridge, there should be a sufficient number of well-sharpened pencils that will make a good black mark. The three-cornered ones will not roll off the

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table. There should be bridge scores or scoring tablets and some of these have a pocket at the side for the pencil. For euchre, counters are needed. The players often wear wire bracelets or pins on which these are slipped and the score thus displayed. For those who play often, it is well to keep prizes on hand and it is found to be convenient to have a special drawer in which all the necessary implements are kept together, ready for use. For progressive euchre, punches and score cards are needed. The hostess does the punching herself or asks certain ladies to perform this office.

Friends sometimes combine and give a progressive euchre or other form of card party at a casino or club house. The invitations are sent out in their joint names and they divide the cost of the prizes and the other expenses of the entertainment.

A hostess often invites gentlemen as well as ladies to play cards in the evening, but men cannot usually spare the time to attend affairs that take place in the afternoon. Bridge parties are now extremely popular. The invitations are given by telephone or

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word of mouth or in an informal note. The hostess asks her friends to "Come to lunch and bridge" or she will perhaps write "I hope you can dine with us and we will play bridge afterwards if you like." In summer the luncheon card party is very popular. Or the ladies may be asked for bridge only, either in the afternoon or in the evening. In this case it will be necessary to serve a little supper, unless the occasion is a very small one. Little card parties of one or two tables are very cosy and informal. They are preferred by some experienced players who care more for the game itself than for the social side of such affairs.

For twelve or more persons, salad, ices, sandwiches, with claret cup, lemonade, Apollinaris or White Rock water, furnish ample entertainment. A mould of pâté de foie gras in aspic jelly is a good dish for a card supper and fruit always makes a pleasant addition. The hostess may vary the bill of fare to suit her convenience. After a bridge lunch or dinner, it is only necessary to provide Apollinaris or lemonade with or without sandwiches. These are handed

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around to the guests at the card table. Some ladies add ices in the evening. In the afternoon, tea is occasionally served instead of lemonade, but it is a little more trouble and causes more delay than the usual cold drinks. I am now giving the point of view of the devotee of the card table, who dislikes interruptions of the play. For people who are not bridge enthusiasts, the appearance of the tea equipage makes a pleasant variety in the proceedings of the afternoon.

A hostess endeavors to secure the co-operation of one or two friends whom she can call upon in an emergency, to fill the places of those who are prevented at the last moment from keeping their engagements. At a regular card-party she does not play, except to take a vacant place.

The hostess at a house-party, who has among her guests one or two persons who are extremely fond of card-playing, will need to exercise a little care to prevent the rest of the company from being victimized. If she perceives that the other players are taking part in the game merely to be obliging, she will endeavor to rescue them after

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a proper length of time. People who have the card fever badly are sometimes insatiable in their demands on the time of others. The pleasure of the company is in danger of being marred by those who look upon cards, not as an amusement, but as a serious pursuit.

The man who scolds his partner or becomes ill-tempered himself over bad luck or the mistakes of some of the players, has only himself to blame if the lady of the house proposes some other amusement. This she will surely try to do, should she see that he is making other people uncomfortable by his mistaken zeal. Where *all* the players hold the same views as to the solemn importance of their beloved pastime, and argue long, earnestly but amiably over doubtful points, mine hostess will beware of interfering, lest she give general offence. Sometimes when she is uncertain what course to pursue, she can tentatively suggest an adjournment, without pressing the point. She will thus give an opportunity for escape to those who have become weary of the game. If any player offers with a fervent politeness that

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is in itself suspicious, to give up his hand to some one else, the hostess will draw her own conclusions and will try to rescue him, taking the place herself, if necessary. Card playing is now so extremely popular, that the lady of the house does not often need to protect her guests, it should be said.

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CHAPTER XV

STUDIO TEAS AND BACHELOR ENTERTAINMENTS



HERE is a mystery about a studio which gives it a peculiar fascination for the uninitiated. We know the artist spends his days and sometimes his nights there, carrying on all sorts of occult processes at which we may not even have a peep. If we are so rash as to go there when not especially invited, the door is grudgingly unlocked and opened just a crack, through which we have a vision of a gentleman in a blouse, or if it is a feminine studio, of a lady in a surprisingly painty linen apron. An odor of wet paint or moist clay fills the air, and we get a glimpse of a distant easel, surmounted by a canvas (whose back is invariably turned toward the door) or of half-finished forms

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of dark gray stuff which we suppose will be noble statues when they are done. We are always told that the artist is "exceedingly busy this morning," in a tone which plainly signifies that we had better take our departure, since we can by no means be allowed to enter the charmed precincts. So we sadly depart from the shrine of Art, with a deep sense of our own inferiority and a burning desire to witness the rites so carefully hidden from our unworthy eyes. Perhaps our young friend is going to be a second Michael Angelo or a female Rembrandt — if we could only see what she does when she is shut up alone there with her inspirations and her messy paints!

It is this heightening of our curiosity and the element of the unknown, the possibility of encountering the Sublime at any moment, that gives the studio of the artist such a charm for us. We welcome any invitation to cross the well-guarded threshold of the enchanted castle. The artist hostess thus has the great advantage of knowing that her hospitality will be appreciated. If her work is serious, if she is not merely playing with

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Art, she cannot receive her friends often, even in the simplest way. She may perhaps be able to arrange for a weekly reception day, when she is not too busy, or for one or two afternoons a month, such as the first and third Thursdays. Or she may only find leisure for a couple of receptions at the beginning and end of the season.

Despite the distrust of the scrubwoman inherent in the artistic bosom, we should certainly advise the calling in of this functionary from time to time. Scrubbing and cleaning are a trade, if not a profession, and the young artist will exhaust her strength, lose valuable time and probably do a very poor job, if she undertakes the task that an expert chore-lady could accomplish with ease and speed. The scrubwoman, who is of course a vandal, cannot be let loose among the works of Art, but she can be kept under judicious surveillance.

The arrangement of the studio for the reception of Philistine guests demands some thought. It is neither possible nor desirable to do away wholly with the workshop character of the apartment, yet this must be sub-

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dued and the decorative side brought into bold relief. If a palette, with its bright dabs of paint, is left out to give a professional look, it must be carefully placed where no unfortunate guest can step or sit down on it; for if she receives a touch of local color on her best gown, she will declare that all artists are wretched housekeepers and will vow never to enter a studio again.

The hostess is of course wise enough not to reveal all the mysteries of her craft. The tools of her trade are tucked into inaccessible nooks and crannies and the half-finished work is disposed of somehow, possibly up the chimney. All her treasured bric-à-brac is now brought out, for this is its day of glory. Old tapestries, brass lamps and jugs, bits of armor, plaster casts and all the delightful junk which she has accumulated in her climb up the slopes of Parnassus, may be spread about or hung up as votive tablets on the shrine of Art. It is safe to predict that everything will be admired or at least voted quaint and interesting by the visitors. We said all the bric-à-brac, but there must not be an excess of

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ornament. This would have the effect of making the room look crowded and out of keeping with its true purpose, namely that of an artistic workshop. The scrubwoman might with advantage be allowed to shine up the brasses and pewter a bit, not to speak of the silver for the tea-table. A few flowers or sprays of laurel or other greenery add much to the festive appearance of the studio, but they are by no means indispensable.

The appointments of the tea-table may have a touch of oddity, but they should not be too bizarre. A few fanciful people may like to drink their tea out of ancient glass goblets, or to use paper napkins by way of a lark. Most of us prefer the conventions of civilized life when it is a question of eating and drinking. It is much pleasanter to take our tea out of cups and saucers that look not only as if they could be, but as if they had actually been washed, and nothing stirs so well as a well-polished silver spoon! Good plate must of course do, if our young artist does not possess the real article. For the rest, a pretty china or earthenware teapot with ewer and sugar-basin of the same ma-

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terial, looks very well, and the plates for the cake and bread and butter or sandwiches may be of quaint design. A Russian samovar presents a very imposing appearance, or an ordinary brass or copper kettle looks very well. A part of the fun of the occasion will be making the tea on the table. The young hostess and her friends form a merry group as they flit about, bringing hot water and matches or pouring out the alcohol in hospitable libation. As the flame bursts forth, their fair faces leaning over it make a charming picture. We are reminded of the Vestal Virgins carefully tending the sacred fire on the hearth of their temple in the days of ancient Rome. It is good to think that their modern sisters are not bound by cruel oaths never to desert the shrine, should admirers persuade them to try the chances of matrimony.

An informal studio tea is pleasanter without the presence of hired assistants, if the hostess can secure the help of one or two young friends. Some one must open the door, receive the visitors and attend to the tea-table. If there is neither kitchen nor

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butler's pantry near at hand, a good substitute may be made by dividing off one corner of the apartment with screens. To this kitchenette the soiled tea things may be carried and if there is time to wash them up behind this friendly shelter, as they are brought out, it will save a grand clearing-up afterward.

A dinner in a studio is often a merry affair, but it can hardly be managed in a single room unless everything is sent in from a neighboring hostelry. A studio apartment offers greater possibilities; yet even here it will usually be necessary to procure most of the dinner ready cooked. The dishes can be warmed over a gas or kerosene stove before being placed on the table, and several courses can be served. The writer was present not long ago at a charming affair of this sort. Dinner for eight persons was served in a large studio, cheerfully yet not brilliantly lighted by candles and by the glow of an open wood fire. At the end of the room farthest from the single great window, with its possibilities of draughts, our table was set cosily enough. But if we chanced to

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look up, the effect of the raftered ceiling, arching high above our heads in the dim mellow half-light, was quaint and mysterious. The rays of the "little candles" did their best, but they could not reach so high. At each place was set some appropriate favor — a miniature Irish flag for a well-known writer, a tiny suit-case for the inevitable suburbanite, a lily for a tall slender beauty, and so on. Our dinner consisted of soup, cold turkey and hot meat pie, a salad course, ice cream, fruit and coffee. A clever Japanese waited upon us, while outside an assistant warmed up the dishes sent in from the pastry cook's and washed the plates, everything being done very quietly in a tiny kitchenette barely large enough for a self-respecting cat to turn around in.

Our company included some good talkers but no usurpers of conversation. At the conclusion of the meal cigars were handed to the gentlemen, for if you dine in a masculine studio you must not object to tobacco smoke. Our host was so fortunate as to possess a charming wife who did all the honors in an easy, graceful and cordial way, wel-

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coming us with the genuine warmth of hospitality that is so pleasant to encounter.

An artist who has the misfortune to be a bachelor, must provide a chaperon if he wishes to entertain ladies. She must be one in fact as well as in name, a married lady or a single woman of mature years, who will behave with dignity and discretion and will remain until the party breaks up. In order to insure her presence, the lady who is to act as chaperon must be invited before any of the other guests and must be asked to assume this responsibility, so that there may be no misunderstanding. For if she supposes that she is asked merely as a guest, she may not feel obliged to come to an afternoon tea, for instance, even if she has accepted the invitation.

A bachelor who lives in a pleasant suite of rooms often likes to entertain his friends there, either simply or elaborately as his means and taste dictate. As in the case of the artist, his first requisite is a suitable chaperon, who is virtually the hostess of the occasion. Her position is not just what it would be in her own house, where she would

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take the lead. The bachelor, as the true host, does the honors of his apartment, but it is of the greatest importance to the success of his entertainment that he should have the assistance of an agreeable and tactful woman, a person with some experience of society and of unexceptionable standing in the community. It would not be well to ask a *divorcée* to fill this office, since some of the ladies might object to meeting her. The chaperon of the bachelor's entertainment must be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Her husband must of course be included in the invitation, although if it is an afternoon affair he may not be able to come.

In issuing his invitations, a bachelor usually "Requests the honor" of a lady's presence. It is not in accordance with the rules of etiquette that he should issue "At home" cards. For an afternoon tea, his arrangements would be much like those made by a feminine hostess with regard to the rooms, equipment of the table, etc. A thorough airing of the apartment beforehand, to remove all lingering traces of tobacco smoke, is very important. Everything should be

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swept, garnished and put in apple-pie order by competent feminine hands. We have said elsewhere that a hostess should be ready in good season to welcome her guests; the necessity for promptness is even more imperative in the case of a masculine host, since it might be very awkward for ladies to arrive and find no one ready to receive them. If they should come in while the last touches were being made to the drawing-room, or if they should espy some one hastily disappearing with an armful of books or papers, they would form an unfavorable opinion of their host's housekeeping. He himself must be in readiness to receive all his guests with a cordial greeting, introducing them to the chaperon. Our host must be cautioned against excess of vigor in shaking hands with his fair guests. Too strong a pressure of the hand is painful, especially to the wearer of rings.

For a small tea, a single attendant will suffice, provided our bachelor has bespoken the services of some men friends to assist in waiting on the ladies. A tidily dressed maid, with broad linen cuffs and collar, a black

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stuff dress and white cap and apron, can open the door and give the ladies any assistance they may require when they arrive, such as the removal of overshoes or coats. The tea-table being all in readiness before the appearance of the guests, it will only be necessary for her to light the alcohol lamp and bring hot water at the last moment, assist in passing the tea, cake and sandwiches, carry away the cups that have been used and bring a fresh supply of anything that may be needed. The chaperon will preside at the table and make the tea.

For a larger occasion, the services of two or three young ladies or attractive matrons should be engaged beforehand, in addition to those of the chaperon. The tea-table should be set in the dining-room, an assistant hostess sitting at each end and pouring tea or coffee, chocolate or bouillon. There should also be a bowl of punch or lemonade on a small table. Where the entertainment is on this scale, two maid servants will probably be needed, unless our bachelor has a valet capable of giving assistance.

Our host will remember to stand near the

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door to receive his guests, the chaperon being at his right. He must avoid the possible temptation of devoting himself too assiduously to some especially charming girl, to the neglect of the others. To have your adored Araminta actually beneath your roof, is certainly so delightful an experience as almost to dazzle the sober senses of an infatuated youth. He may be pardoned if he linger while handing her a teacup, but if he prolong the tête-à-tête too greatly he will invoke hostile criticism from the other ladies present.

As host he will wish to see personally that all his guests are amused and their wants provided for. He will make such introductions as seem to him to be desirable, his hostess and men friends assisting him. According to well-established custom, a lady may introduce any guest to any other beneath her own roof, but a masculine host can hardly claim the same privilege so far as ladies are concerned. He must certainly make introductions wherever this is necessary to avoid awkwardness. He will not however, formally present a gentleman to a lady without

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asking permission and he will remember the old rule which forbids the formal introduction of two ladies who live in the same town, without first obtaining leave from both of them.

Some young men are so fortunate as to have a mother or a sister living within easy reach. Such a relative is usually called in to play the part of hostess. If our bachelor wishes to give a dinner or supper party, she will help her son or brother to receive the guests and will sit at the head of the table. Her presence will go far toward giving an agreeable atmosphere of home to the abode of the man living in chambers, and will add to the pleasure of the company, if she does not forget that her place is a subordinate one. As the true host, the bachelor should take the lead in conversation, his mother or other feminine relative assisting him but never behaving as if the party were hers. This is sometimes a difficult rôle for a loquacious dowager to fill, but she must accustom herself to it unless she wishes to spoil her son's entertainments. She must resist, for instance, her natural desire to tell anecdotes

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of "Tommy's" childhood, whether these show him as a hero or in an amusing light. Stories of his remarkable prowess or cleverness at an early age, will be apt to bore the guests and to mortify "Tommy," who may dislike extremely to be thus held up for the admiration or ridicule of his friends. He is now "Mr. Thomas So-and-so," who has laid childish things aside.

If the assistant hostess is a young unmarried sister, a chaperon will be necessary. The host would present all guests to both these ladies and would take the latter in to dinner, seating her at his right hand. Or he could place her at his left, if the occasion were given in honor of another lady, or if some elderly or distinguished woman were present. He would offer his arm to either of these, taking care however, to have the lady acting as chaperon come next in the procession to the dining-room. If the sister were present, she as hostess would give the signal to the other ladies to leave the table. In her absence the chaperon would perform this duty. The host or the man sitting nearest to the door would hold it open for the

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feminine guests to pass out, all the gentlemen standing meanwhile. They should soon rejoin the ladies, for it would not be in good taste on the host's part to leave these long alone. He must remember that they have done him a favor by coming to the dinner. Some hosts return with the ladies to the drawing-room and remain there. In this case smoking is apt to follow, permission being asked beforehand.

The chaperon, like the mother, will avoid taking the chief part in the conversation, unless this obviously becomes necessary. A very shy host or one little accustomed to feminine society, may need to be helped out. A tactful woman will see that the conversation does not languish; she will start a new subject when occasion requires, yet always with the air of reminding her host of something he might wish to say or of filling a gap, rather than of dictating the direction to be taken by the flow of talk.

In her double capacity of hostess and guest, our chaperon lays her bachelor host under a real obligation to her. A courteous man will bear this in mind and will show his

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gratitude in some pleasant way. He may like to send her theatre tickets, flowers or candy, and will call in person soon after the event, if he possibly can. All the ladies who come without masculine escort to a bachelor entertainment, are in the special charge of the host. He or one of his friends will see them to their carriage or have a servant call it for them. If two or three ladies are going home together, he will escort them to the front door and will send some one home with them, if it appear unsafe for them to go alone. He will be especially careful to see that the assistant hostesses are provided with a suitable conveyance or escort for their return home.

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CHAPTER XVI

CLASS-DAY AND COMMENCEMENT FESTIVITIES



VERY collegian wishes to ask some friends to the graduation festivities, no matter on how simple a scale these may be. Certainly the young woman does and the young man knows that it will be expected of him, even though he may not be very enthusiastic on the subject himself. Class-Day is not an altogether joyous time for the Seniors. It marks the close of their college career, those happy care-free years which look so bright in retrospect! In a short time the student must bid farewell to all his mates and to the classic shades of his beloved Alma Mater. He must face the great outside world, so cold and so indifferent to the new-comer. Most young people feel some natural trepi-

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dation about making the first plunge; like young robins they would like to linger in the nest till their wings have grown a little stronger, and their self-confidence is by no means so highly developed as the comic papers represent it. Hence the season of graduation brings many sober and some sad thoughts, and Seniors have occasionally been known to go off for a sail or a row on the day when they are supposed to exercise their greatest hospitality.

Such unsocial conduct is a great mistake and may well be regretted in later years. It is running counter to the sound human instinct which bids us rejoice together at the completion of any serious undertaking, just as our ancestors did thousands of years ago. Class-Day may be called the Harvest Home of the University and unless the four years have been wholly unfruitful, there may well be a happy celebration at their close. This is certainly the view of parents and friends, who for the rest enjoy having a peep at the scenes which are often new to them, though so familiar to the student son. The young collegian who acts as host, should re-

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member that this aspect of novelty will be of great assistance to him in entertaining his guests. They will enjoy many sights and sounds which are to him a twice-told tale. He will need to make all his plans in good season and to procure tickets to all that is going on. To him it may seem incomprehensible that Father and Mother should wish to see the diplomas handed out, or be willing to sit a whole morning to hear long speeches in the College Chapel. But Papa and Mamma, who have paid for the little drama of their son's University life, regard all this as part of the show and they naturally like to get their money's worth.

How many people our Senior will invite will depend on the size of his circle of friends and acquaintance and on the length of his own or of the parental purse. Now that graduation festivities occupy several days, it is usual to have two or more sets of guests, namely those who are asked for the entire period and those who are invited for Class-Day itself. Here again may be another division between those who are to make a party for the whole day and its various

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sights, and the persons whose presence is requested for the spread only. Those who are invited for the whole period are usually the immediate family and a few favored friends.

A pleasant custom prevails at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell and some other country colleges, whereby a "Fraternity House" is given up to the use of ladies from out of town. One or two chaperons are invited to matronize the party. These should be matrons who are no longer young, or spinsters who have no pretensions to youth. They arrive either with or before their young charges. Each student can invite a young lady to the festivities, room being provided for her at the Fraternity or Club House. He meets her at the station upon her arrival and escorts her to her destination, where he places her under the charge of the chaperon. At colleges situated near large cities, this custom does not usually prevail. Where there are plenty of hotels and boarding-houses, it is easy for visitors from a distance to make their own arrangements about rooms. For

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his own family, a Harvard student would engage apartments in Cambridge or Boston, a Yale man would do so at New Haven. For friends whose presence was especially desired, they would be glad to perform the same service, or it might be arranged to have some favorite cousins or other young girls and perhaps one or two men accompany the family party. These long-distance guests will be the especial charge of our Senior. He will provide them with tickets for the base-ball game or other athletic sports and the Senior dance, as well as for the festivities of the great day itself. Since the space at most colleges, and consequently the number of tickets issued to each person, is necessarily limited, he may have some difficulty in making an equitable distribution. Hence it is best not to have the party of visitors too large. The parents or elderly relatives would be the persons most interested in the College exercises, the young people in the games and dances.

A hospitable host wishes to do escort duty so far as he can, but his class obligations may interfere. To sit with your fellows at

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an athletic performance, and groan or cheer as the case may require, is of course a professional obligation of the undergraduate, which must not lightly be tampered with. The advent of a very charming girl is almost the only interference that can be tolerated. On Class-Day itself the Seniors are obliged to take part in various exercises which keep them away from their guests. Hence they often ask friends in the Junior Class to assist them in doing the honors. The visiting friends must not be neglected nor left to wander about alone in unfamiliar places. For the formal dances, it is a part of the pleasant duty of the host to fill up beforehand the cards of his sister and other feminine guests, making exchanges with his college friends.

The graduating class often provide a number of ladies, persons of high social standing in the community, to act as chaperons at a dance. In this case the young ladies are invited without their mothers. They go together in groups of two or more, or a maid accompanies them. Where the dance takes place in a theatre or in a hall

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large enough to accommodate the parents, they are of course invited.

If the visiting party include some pretty girl or agreeable cousin, our Senior may usually be counted on to give them all the time he can spare. When no such attractive person is present, he should still try to arrange his engagements in a way to enable him to see as much of them as possible. Visitors are not usually exacting at such seasons, for they know their young friend must be exceedingly busy. If our host greets his friends on their arrival with hospitable warmth and cordiality, if they find all necessary preparations made for their pleasure and comfort, if he looks them up or meets them by appointment from time to time, they will not quarrel with his enforced absences. Perhaps he may be able to run in for ten minutes only, yet if he shows hospitable intent and forethought in these brief visits, they will be more agreeable than an hour spent in apologizing for some neglect or blunder.

On Class-Day itself or whatever the gala day of the particular college is called, our

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Senior will wish to throw open his rooms as a place of rest, refreshment and general rendezvous for his friends. He should provide a dressing room for the ladies in addition to the principal apartment.

Customs with regard to spreads vary at different colleges. At some there is a general entertainment to which all the guests of the day are invited; at others there are many spreads given by individuals or by societies. Our Senior will probably wish to offer some simple refreshments to his friends from a distance and perhaps to others. Sandwiches, cake, lemonade and punch will be sufficient, with tea or coffee if the weather is cold or damp. There are always caterers or grocers from whom the necessary china, glass and silver can be hired, although their prices are sometimes exorbitant. The invitations to spreads should include parents or chaperons as well as daughters. Hence while the Senior usually endeavors to provide a chaperon, he does not always do so, as it is not expected that a young lady will come to Class-Day without one.

The Senior himself is the host of the oc-

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casion, but he is glad to have his mother and sisters present and to introduce his guests to them. If he unites with others in giving a more elaborate spread, engraved invitations are usually sent out, requesting the honor or the pleasure of Mrs. Blank's company. In addition to the names of all the hosts (or of the Society), it is well to give that of the person to whom the answer should be sent. In some cases it is necessary to reply to the first invitation, in order to receive cards of admission. At a formal spread some substantial dishes are usually included in the menu, especially if it comes at an hour when people ordinarily take their meals. Salads, croquettes, ices, cakes, candies, coffee and punch would make a sufficient bill-of-fare. This would vary somewhat with the season of the year, strawberries being inevitable so long as they last. Bouillon, though especially appropriate to cold weather, is good at any time of the year. The services of a caterer and his assistants would be called in for an entertainment of this character. The hosts and the other young men would help in passing the re-

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freshments, but it is very desirable to have enough professional waiters to make sure that all will be well and quietly done, without accident or confusion. At some spreads there is dancing in a hall or in a tent put up for the occasion, a band of musicians being in attendance.

Friends who come for the day may be quite at a loss to know where they should go for lunch or dinner. Our Senior or his deputy may take them to a hotel or a club-house, or at least tell them where meals can be procured. Ladies who remain until evening usually have a masculine escort. If they have not, the Senior or his friend will remember to put them on board the trolley or train, or to see them to their carriage or automobile.

At a woman's college, the young women should give as much thought to the entertainment of their guests as they themselves would expect, were they visiting a man's college. It cannot be denied that the pleasant communal life of the young people has a tendency to make them feel themselves a little apart, perhaps a little superior to

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the rest of the world. This *esprit de corps* has its advantages, but it does not promote hospitality. We will not say that girls have this feeling more strongly developed than boys, but it is more noticeable and more disagreeable in young women, because we are accustomed to find the graces and amenities of life especially emphasized among the fair sex. Hence the girl who thinks it smart to be a neglectful or careless hostess, makes a great mistake. It has been unkindly said that a man's manners are improved by college life, but that those of a girl are made worse. If this is true, and I do not say that it is, we must remember that the new position in which women find themselves, the absence of centuries of tradition regulating conduct, must excuse many shortcomings. Our college hostess should make every effort to provide for the comfort and welfare of her guests. She should "have them on her mind" quite as much as a man would. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that her men friends need not be met at nor escorted back to the train. If some distinguished guest of the class is expected, the

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committee appointed to meet him should consist of at least two members. The rule of Sisters of Charity, to go about in pairs whenever possible, is a good one. The lecturer who found a single bare-headed girl student waiting for him at the station, in order to escort him to the college, was a little surprised and amused. The lack of conventionality displayed by this young girl was not a breach of hospitality, but it was not in good taste.

At women's colleges, where the students have only a single room apiece or perhaps only half of an apartment shared by a chum, individual spreads are hardly possible. The dramatic entertainments and graceful fancy dances are among the attractive features of the graduation season at women's colleges. Fortunate is the guest who receives an invitation to "Float Day" at Wellesley, when the fair crews look their prettiest on the little lake. Bryn Mawr has had some lovely representations of Shakespeare's plays "Under the greenwood tree" and Vassar's "Daisy Chain" of charming young women, has been often reproduced for our

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sympathetic admiration. At Smith the Senior Dramatics are the central point of eager interest and are much admired. They take the place of dancing at Commencement. The Baccalaureate Sermon, Ivy Exercises and Commencement itself, ending with a big stand-up lunch, make up the programme, few guests being present beyond the circle of near relatives, it is said.

At women's colleges the teachers usually act as chaperons, their position giving them a certain dignity, though they may be still young women. A teacher should matronize any occasion to which men are invited, unless the student's mother or some other married lady undertake this duty.

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CHAPTER XVII

WOMEN'S CLUBS

EVERY woman's club intends to show cordial hospitality to its guests and it usually succeeds in doing so. As I write, pleasant memories of gala days and of many kindnesses received, rise up before me. American women are kind and thoughtful hostesses in the club world, as they are out of it, and plan all arrangements with that painstaking detail characteristic of the feminine mind. When we remember how new this associative movement among the members of our sex is, and how rapidly it has grown during the last quarter of a century, the sound organization and successful administration of its congregate hospitality seem surprising. Where a slip or omission occurs, it is usually due to a lack of clear understanding be-

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tween the different officers, or because those in authority have not thought all around the subject. There is sometimes a little confusion about the respective duties of the president or secretary and the entertainment committee, each party supposing that the other will meet an expected guest, for instance. Since the secretary conducts the correspondence, she knows the hour of arrival. In some societies it falls to the lot of this official to go to the train to receive a visitor; in others a member of the hospitality committee is deputed to perform the duty. It is well therefore to have all these details clearly arranged beforehand. Again, loyalty to the society sometimes results in a lack of perfect hospitality. The members feel that their first duty is to their club and forget that an outsider is not bound to the same allegiance. Hence while performing their own tasks, they sometimes neglect the stranger within their gates. She is perhaps left in a cold and cheerless waiting-room until business has been transacted, or she sits alone at the conclusion of the programme, while the members electioneer or

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discuss some interesting project among themselves.

An energetic and capable house committee is a very important part of club machinery. What is every one's duty is no one's, as we all know. We would not be understood as saying that a club, like a corporation, has no soul; but being an abstraction, it must exercise its functions through individuals or committees. The entertainment or house committee should be so large that none of the members need be overburdened. A part of their duty should be the welcoming of new members and making these feel entirely at home in their new surroundings. It is so much easier and pleasanter to chat with old friends than to make conversation with new ones, that the latter may sit neglected and alone during an intermission, simply because no one has thought about them. Hence the very enjoyment of our club life sometimes makes us appear inhospitable, for we forget that new members and strangers cannot in the nature of things feel as much at home as we

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do. Yet we wish them to share fully in our enjoyment.

Where the club function takes place in a suburb or small town, it is well to have the invitations give the hours of the starting of the trains, and also directions for reaching the place of meeting. In large cities, people are supposed to know in some miraculous way just how to go to any given spot; but in the country, even the most intelligent inhabitant of the neighboring metropolis is glad to be told whither to turn his footsteps. In small places, it is the pleasant custom on gala club days to meet guests from out of town at the station. Conveyances are usually provided, unless the distance from the station is very short. This thoughtful provision is always made for elderly or infirm ladies. It is well to have the dressing-rooms under some surveillance, for sneak thieves have been known to carry off wraps from club houses, I regret to say. The president and vice-presidents stand in line to receive the guests and give them a right cordial greeting. The almost invariable custom is

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to shake hands with all comers. A few societies receive with a curtsey only, but the effect is decidedly chilling. The president at least, should extend her hand to all guests. Sometimes the chairman of the hospitality committee or of the department under whose auspices the entertainment is given, stands in the receiving line. Officers of the Federation or other distinguished guests, or members of the local executive board, may also be asked to do so. It is always pleasant to have young girls act as ushers and find seats for the guests.

Happy the club that has the genius to plan a short yet effective programme and the courage to carry it out! It would seem self-evident that the great point on the occasion of any festivity, is to provide entertainment, sometimes happily combined with instruction, for the company present. This main object is often lost sight of, in the desire to please members of the club and their friends, by giving them an opportunity to display "local talent," musical or otherwise. Then some one is very apt to be late and another person takes up more than her share

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of time for her address, and often the women who have been asked to speak toward the end of the programme, are obliged to leave before their turn comes. All of which is unfortunate and mars the perfection of the occasion. In planning a programme, it is well to remember that delays will occur and that some speakers will exceed their time limit. At a convention they can be stopped with a bell, but on a social afternoon one cannot enforce the ten-minute rule without being impolite. Those in charge should make up their minds beforehand what can best be sacrificed, if it becomes necessary to cut out some portion of the programme. If there are out-of-town guests present and they have been asked to speak, it is well to ascertain at what hour they will be obliged to leave. It is manifestly discourteous to invite a lady to prepare a speech and then give her no opportunity to deliver it.

A club luncheon is usually moderate in cost, in order to enable all the members to attend it without taxing any one's purse too heavily. The Daughters of the American Revolution usually put the price at one dol-

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lar. The Federations of Clubs sometimes make it even less, fifty or seventy-five cents. Something depends on local standards of expense, amount of service furnished, etc. Now that long and elaborate meals have gone out of fashion, there would seem to be little excuse for making a club luncheon or dinner the occasion of ostentation and large expense. The members often contribute to the decoration of the table and rooms, bringing flowers from their gardens, or silver and glass from well-stocked china-closets, thus enabling the general treasury to devote more funds to the musical or literary part of the programme. In planning the arrangement of the tables, care should be taken to put guests next to those who have invited them, or in the neighborhood of bright and agreeable club members. A special table is sometimes arranged for the officers and distinguished guests, the chief places of honor being on the right and left of the president. It is the privilege of this officer to act as toast-mistress, introducing each person in a few bright well-chosen words. These introductions must always be brief, for the audi-

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ence is waiting, sometimes impatiently, to hear the speakers of the programme, and under these circumstances they dislike floods of preliminary oratory. Sometimes the president asks the vice-president to act as mistress of ceremonies at the table.

A club tea is usually simple in character, like an ordinary afternoon tea. It gives a homelike atmosphere and also greater elegance to the affair, if there are one or two handsomely set tables, with a hostess at each end presiding over the tea or coffee urn or whatever form of refreshment is chosen. If many outsiders are invited, ice cream is sometimes served but this is not obligatory. The more simple the bill-of-fare, the more attention we should pay to having it suited to the season and the weather. Lemonade and fruit punch are excellent in summer, tea and coffee in winter. On a cold, rainy evening in June however, cooling drinks and ice cream alone seem very frigid, and when rooms are much heated we like something cool even in January.

For gentlemen's night, it is best to have a rather light, attractive programme, not be-

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cause of any supposed intellectual inferiority of the masculine mind, but because men are usually rather weary after the business of the day. Music not too serious in character, dramatics in some form, readings, recitations, lectures amusing rather than heavy, all are good for this purpose. Women do not need to be told that men like more solid food than we do. Yet the club hostess often has a serious problem before her in the condition of the treasury. She knows that the husbands and fathers will expect something first-class in the literary or musical part of the programme; indeed the society is on its mettle to show that it can really provide a feast of reason if not a flow of soul. Hence some clubs have come to the conclusion that it is best to procure professional talent for gentlemen's night, even though this may involve the necessity of giving only light refreshments, such as ice cream and coffee. Club officers have been known to ask the speaker to cut down his price, in order to enable them to offer refreshments to their guests or to decorate their tables with flowers; but this is surely

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placing too high a value on the material and visible side of life, as well as being unjust to the man of letters.

A club officer or member should always meet the speaker of the day at the station or send a conveyance for him, and arrangements should be made for sending him back at the close of the entertainment. Such a person is almost always received with great cordiality and consideration, the danger often being that he will be killed with kindness. Ruth McEnery Stuart has written a very amusing account of her experiences, ending with the schoolgirls who tiptoed into the lecturer's bedroom before she was awake in the morning, in order to have a peep at the visiting celebrity. Another speaker has told us of hosts who kept her talking till midnight, never thinking that she might wish to rest after the fatigues of the evening. As for handshaking with all the club members, that is always a pleasure, although sometimes fatiguing at the close of a long address. An elderly man or woman should always be asked beforehand whether he or she will be too tired to go through this cere-

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mony. It is well to consult the speaker in advance before making engagements for a lunch, dinner or reception for him. He will probably be glad to accept these kind and flattering attentions, but fatigue or other demands upon his time, may prevent his being able to do so.

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PART IV

CHAPTER XVIII

HINTS FOR CLUB FESTIVITIES

THE most suitable and successful club festivities are usually those which bear some relation to the work of the society, treated in lighter vein. Women's clubs are serious bodies for the most part, who give their attention to study or who engage in good works. On gala days all desire to make merry and as their usual pursuits lurk in their minds, a little gentle fun is made of these. The same thing is true of the social meetings of ministers and doubtless of men of other callings, who enjoy telling amusing stories relating to their own profession. In the same way the speeches at the annual entertainments of women's clubs, deal with

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the doings of associated womanhood and some of them treat these in a humorous vein. It is well that they should, for the man who can lay aside his burden and have a good laugh, will carry it farther than his unsmiling brother who can never part with his load.

THE SEVEN AGES OF WOMAN

For a club that has been studying history, tableaux showing the dress of the period or a play illustrating its manners, is appropriate. Shakespeare's "Seven ages of man," changed to the distaff side of the house, makes an amusing programme. They may be presented as a series of tableaux or as wax-works in Mrs. Jarley style. A stout and short middle-aged lady, wearing a low-necked and short-sleeved frock and an infant's cap, makes a ridiculous baby. She sits on a tall office stool by way of a high chair and waves a rattle. A tall slender woman, with hair hanging in long plaits, and duly arrayed in sunbonnet, pinafore, broad collar and short skirts, personates the school-girl. The feminine lover wears Civil War cos-

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tume and assumes a very languishing air. She must "sigh like a furnace" and roll up her eyes. A Red-Cross nurse takes the place of the soldier. She bears a tray of bottles with which she "presents arms," when wound up. A handsome young woman of fine presence represents the justice. She is arrayed in college gown and mortar-board and sits at a table spread with eatables. To show the superiority of twentieth-century development, the lean and slippered pantaloon is replaced by the club president, serious and dignified. Her costume should be simple and severe but in good style — a tailor-made suit and plain hat. The effect of her dress should be a little mannish but not objectionably so. She carries a ponderous gavel with which she raps for order, when duly wound up.

A MUD-PIE TEA

For the educational department, a mud-pie tea makes an effective programme. It typifies the pleasure of returning to simple and childish things, after many long struggles with educational problems and the peru-

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sal of long-winded essays full of learned terms. A club numbering some well-known literary women among its members, gave such a tea with great success. A large, round cake covered with chocolate icing occupied the centre of the table and represented the mud-pie. Chocolate éclairs and bonbons helped to emphasize the same idea. Boston brown-bread gave another touch of the desired color. Literary exercises preceded the feast, original verses dealing with the theme of the afternoon in serio-comic style. Before adjourning, the audience joined in singing a parody whereof the refrain was:

"Shoo Fly, don't bodder me,
For I belong to the mud-pie tea."

A club composed of less gifted women could substitute Kindergarten songs and games for original papers and verses.

A BLUE TEA

which was in effect a blue-stocking tea, furnished a delightful afternoon to a literary

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club. The members and their friends were asked to appear in costumes of the chosen color, or at least to wear some blue article of dress. So many complied with the request that a decidedly cerulean hue prevailed. One lady had tall plumes in her hair, another wore the traditional blue stockings of the learned woman of ancient days, and there were charming costumes of sky color. Draperies for the drawing-room were hastily improvised from ribbons, scarfs and shawls. Tissue paper of the desired color covered many deficiencies, furnishing candle and lamp shades. The guests on arriving found a large, blue letter " T " hanging from the porte-cochère in front of the door. It was ordered from the tinsmith's and was not expensive. The afternoon's entertainment took the form of a literary picnic, each person bringing an original contribution in prose or verse, or an appropriate quotation. Imaginary letters were read from Bluebeard, Little Boy Blue and Mrs. Bloo-mer. The sketch of Blueberry Jones, in Dickens' " Mutual Friend," would have been appropriate.

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As the color of the day was not to be found in foodstuffs, tissue paper again did duty on the tea table. Sugar almonds were neatly wrapped in it and placed in a circle around the edge of a large cake with white frosting. At each place was a name-card painted with a blue design. Candles and costume crackers carried out the prevailing note of color. The occasion was declared a great success. In reproducing it, there would be room for ingenuity in finding suitable quotations, such as:

"Deeply, darkly, desperately blue," or

"Roll on, thou deep blue ocean, roll," etc.

A novel variation from the oldtime sewing-circle idea is

THE QUILT CLUB

This consists of ten or more ladies who unite to make a bedspread of some sort. It may be knitted or crocheted in strips or in small pieces, to be joined together afterwards; or each person may make a square

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of needle-work. Patchwork quilts of silk or cotton appeal to sentiment, because they preserve the memory of favorite gowns; they have the farther advantage of using up odds and ends of material. The spread when finished may be presented to the pastor, or it may be sold or "voted" at a fair. The unique feature of the Quilt Club however, is that each member invites two gentlemen to come in later in the evening, when the time for work is over. If the meeting begins at eight o'clock, the men are asked to come at nine. Each lady keeps the names of the persons she has asked a deep secret, so that there is a great deal of fun when the guests arrive. In a suburban town, friends from the neighboring city could be asked, in order to make a variety and to avoid inviting the same people over and over again.

THE YELLOW SUPPER

The Yellow Supper of our grandmothers was perhaps the ancestor of the modern pink and blue teas. It deserves to be revived, as a picturesque feature of the country-side.

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Early autumn is the proper time for its celebration. The bill-of-fare should comprise baked pumpkin, sweet corn served on the cob, omelette, baked quinces and pumpkin johnny-cake. Golden-hued pears and apples make a pretty centre-piece and serve also as dessert. Marigolds, sunflowers or other yellow blossoms are used as decorations.

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CHAPTER XIX

NOVEL IDEAS FOR PATRIOTIC ENTERTAINMENTS

IN these days of luxurious living, it is well for us to recall from time to time, the poverty and hardships with which our ancestors were obliged to struggle, during the days of the Revolution. If we can illustrate these in picturesque form, they will make a much greater impression on our minds than the perusal of many pages of dry chronicles would produce.

The Swamp-Fox lunch is an absolute novelty, although it recalls a story with which we are all familiar. Every school-boy knows about the unique dinner in the wilds of South Carolina, where General Marion, the Swamp-Fox as he was called by the enemy, courteously entertained the astonished Brit-

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ish officer. Sweet potatoes baked in the ashes and served on pieces of birch bark, formed the first, last and only course of this historic repast.

In reproducing this famous dinner, it is not necessary to restrict the bill of fare to the abstemious diet of the Revolutionary hero. The first course should consist of sweet potatoes alone, served on plates of birch bark. These may be represented by the plates of thin wood used by bakers and others. A pretty surprise can be furnished by cutting the potatoes in two lengthwise, hollowing them out and placing a tiny reed bird in the cavity of each. The two halves are then fitted together nicely and the whole warmed in the oven. It is necessary to select large potatoes and to trim off the ends, thus forming an egg-shaped body. Other courses may follow, keeping in mind always the key-note of the occasion, simplicity and frugality. Cold meat served with a simple salad, Indian pudding and coffee would make a suitable menu. Molasses and water might be served as a beverage with the sweet potato course. The motto of Marion and his men, " Liberty

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or Death," should appear on the name card at each place, or it could be printed in green letters on a white riband, stretched diagonally across the table. The decorations should be of evergreen, representing the sprigs of fir which the partisans wore in their hats, to distinguish them from the Tories, who mounted white cockades.

The Rice Supper is another form of entertainment especially suitable to patriotic celebrations intended to recall the privations of the soldiers of the Revolution. Cold rice, without even salt to make it palatable, often furnished the only rations of the Southern partisans. This vegetable should be introduced into as many of the courses as possible. It is very nutritious and easily digested, but requires great care in preparation, as every good housewife knows. To serve rice thoroughly boiled, yet with the kernels whole and distinct, is a small culinary triumph. Hence a Rice Supper enables the ladies who get it up, to display their skill as cooks. It may begin with rice soup, followed by a savory *pilau* as the "Piéce de résistance." Croquettes of the same material, served with

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currant or other jelly, form an appropriate entrée. The dessert should be the traditional Poor Man's Pudding, plain rice and milk, cooked slowly until it thickens to a delicious creamy consistency, when cold. Or some form of moulded rice may be used — such as *Riz à L'impératrice,* which resembles Bavarian cream. The decorations should be simple white flowers, to denote the purity of the Patriots' motives and to match the rice in color.

A Cherry Lunch or Supper is another novelty, especially suitable for Washington's Birthday. The decorations should be red and white or red alone. The first course should be grape fruit, liberally studded with cherries. Little fancy dishes containing candied fruit of the same variety, should be scattered about the table or placed at the four corners. For dessert, canned or preserved cherries may be used in a pie, or cherry jelly can be served either in a moulded form or in small glasses with whipped cream on top. The Washington coat-of-arms should be used on the name cards, if the lunch is given on February 22d or on January 6th, the

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wedding-day of the Father of his country. If the festival takes place in summer, charming decorations can be made with branches from the cherry trees, holding the ripe fruit and green leaves. These may be laid on the table in a circular form surrounding the centrepiece, or they may radiate from it in such a way as to form a star, or they may be scattered over the cloth in some pretty design. The day when Washington took command of the Army, July 5th, would be a fitting one for this celebration.

For the dramatic entertainments of patriotic societies, our early history offers many hints. It abounded in picturesque events, some of which have been seized and portrayed by the master hand of Hawthorne. By his magic touch he has immortalized these stories, giving them the same charm for us as his delightful rendering of the Greek myths offers, in the classic Wonderbook and Tanglewood Tales. It would be a simple matter to present in pantomimic form or with a few spoken words, the Twice Told Tales dealing with historical subjects. Thus the May-pole of Merry Mount would

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give an excellent opportunity for the pretty, traditional may-pole dance, braiding and unbraiding the ribbons. Some of the merry company should appear as mummers, disguised with animals' heads or other quaint devices. Some should wear gay and picturesque dress, with crowns of flowers. The stern old Puritan Endicott and his men, wear helmets, breastplates and swords. The first-named can be made by wetting old felt hats, stretching them into the desired shape and moulding them over the top of a newel-post, a jelly mould or other convenient object. Crinoline or buckram might be used in the same way.

The entrance of this armed band upon the scene, when the merry-making is at its height, furnishes a truly dramatic moment. They fell the may-pole, a heathen emblem in their sight, with their swords, scatter the flowers and flaunting finery, and arrest the gay revellers. The pillory and the stocks loom before the motley crew, mirth is turned to sorrow. Yet the sequel shows the Puritan at his best. Even Endicott is moved to compassion by the plight of the King and Queen

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of the May, who cling sadly together, in the midst of the general desolation. He notices their true affection for each other, their courage and gallant bearing, and takes them under his protection. Lifting a garland of roses from the ruin, he throws it over the heads of the newly wedded couple, with his own mailed hand, thus typifying the beauty of true affection and its survival over the wreck of idle amusement.

"The Gray Champion" furnishes a drama of more sober interest, illustrating once more the inevitable triumph of liberty over tyranny and persecution. The angry people are massed on one side of the stage, the cruel Royal Governor and his myrmidons on the other.

"Oh Lord of Hosts, provide a champion for thy people!" cries a voice from the crowd. Suddenly it parts as if in answer to the prayer and the figure of an old man appears, wearing the long, dark cloak and steeple-crowned hat of the Puritans, a heavy sword on his thigh and a staff in his aged hand. Holding up his staff, with the gesture of one used to command, he bids the

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astonished Governor stand where he is and go no farther. The victory of the Gray Champion (who is supposed to have been one of the regicides) the retreat of the tyrant, may be portrayed in dumb show or given in a few sentences from Hawthorne's story.

"Are you mad, old man?" demanded Sir Edmund Andros harshly. "How dare you stay the march of King James's Governor?"

"I have stayed the march of a King himself ere now," replied the gray figure, with stern composure.

"I am here, Sir Governor, because the cry of an oppressed people hath disturbed me in my secret place. . . . Back, thou that wast a Governor, back! With this night thy power is ended — to-morrow the prison! — back, lest I foretell the scaffold!"

Howe's Masquerade would make a very telling pantomime. It needs an ancient colonial hall or a modern reproduction of one, for a stage setting. The shadowy figures of the Royal Governors steal in silent procession down the broad stairway, the last

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of the group lamenting with wild gesture the fall of the old order of things and the coming success of the Patriot cause. The meeting between Sir William Howe and his counterfeit presentment, or was it his double? makes the dramatic climax of the scene, as outlined by Hawthorne.

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CHAPTER XX

PROGRESSIVE DINNERS, BARMECIDE'S FEASTS, MAGIC SUPPERS AND OTHER NOVELTIES



HE Progressive Dinner was doubtless suggested by the mad tea-party in Alice in Wonderland. To persons of mature years and settled habits, such a form of entertainment is very distasteful, but very young people find it highly amusing. To youths and maidens in their teens or early twenties, it is delightful to be in constant motion; their gay spirits rejoice in the fun of the thing and in the lack of all formality. A progressive dinner certainly breaks up all stiffness and can therefore be recommended to shy young men and women who possess unimpeachable digestions. Of course no one could attend such feasts often without becoming a hopeless dyspeptic. To give a

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progressive dinner, a number of hostesses combine. Each one agrees to furnish a single course, soup, meat or fish as the case may be, at her dwelling, and the merry party of diners go from one house to the other, until the menu is completed. Dancing or round games make an appropriate ending to the evening.

The invitations may be given over the telephone or by informal notes.

"My dear Mr. Bridges: May we have the pleasure of seeing you at a progressive dinner which we are arranging for Thursday evening next, May 25th? The first course will be served at my house at seven o'clock, the other hostesses in their order being, Mrs. Brown of number three Irving Place, Mrs. Jones of Madison Avenue, etc., etc.

"Hoping to welcome you to soup beneath my roof, I remain,

"Very sincerely yours,

"Clara Durgin."

Or the invitation may be in the form of a

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round robin, with the signatures of all the hostesses appended. When the houses of the entertainers are near together, the gay party of young people walk from one to the other, unless they prefer to go in an omnibus or other vehicle. When the snow is on the ground, it is great fun to make the trip in a sleigh.

The length of time which the different courses and the intervening walks or drives will take, must be carefully calculated beforehand, in order that each hostess may have her share of the meal in readiness at the right moment. It would be easy for the lady actually entertaining the guests, to telephone to the next on the list, when to expect them. Even the gay spirits of youth might be dampened by finding the beef all dried up or the ice cream reduced to a pink lake! Each hostess has her dinner table prettily arranged and decorated with flowers or greenery. Since only one course is to be served, it is only necessary to provide the knives and forks or spoons required for that. In all other respects, the table should be fully set as for an ordinary dinner party.

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It is not advisable to have a great number of courses, as this would take too much time. A dinner of this sort sometimes lasts three hours it is said. The same couples may remain together throughout the entertainment or they may change with each course.

The Topsy-turvy Dinner may well be called a freak entertainment, where the guests begin with the frozen pudding and end with the soup. It would seem to be more worthy of ostriches than of sensible human beings, with a proper regard for their digestions.

A TWENTIETH CENTURY BARMECIDE'S FEAST

Every one who has read the Arabian Nights remembers the Barmecide's feast, where the anxiously expectant guest, after going through all the courses of an imaginary entertainment, was rewarded at last by a savory banquet, served in proper fashion. This idea may be pleasantly utilized by having the first two courses consist of conversation only. The invitations should be for a Twentieth Century Barmecide's feast. On

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entering the dining-room, the guests should find the table handsomely set and well-lighted, but bare of all food. After all have taken their seats, the mistress of the feast, who may be either the hostess or some one deputed by her, should say,

"Ladies, our first course will be Pot-Luck Soup, the question being, do you believe in luck and why?" There should be one or two bright people among the guests, to make the conversation go off well. Before the interest begins to drag, the hostess claps her hands and orders invisible servants to remove the dishes. She may then announce another imaginary course.

"Our next course will be strictly vegetarian. Is it better to sow wild oats or tame ones?" or any subject that occurs to her.

After this has been sufficiently discussed, the real dinner should be brought in and the guests rewarded for their abstinence. Instead of having the imaginary part of the feast served in the dining-room, the guests may gather around a table in the drawing-room, adjourning to the first named apartment at the close of the Barmecide prelude

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to the lunch proper. Or in summer, it would be a pleasant surprise to have the preliminaries in the dining-room and the actual meal on a shady piazza.

POVERTY AND PURE FOOD LUNCHEONS AND MAGIC SUPPERS

The Poverty luncheon especially commends itself to young and energetic housekeepers. A number of these, living in the same town or village, combine to form a lunch club, agreeing that no entertainment shall cost more than a certain sum — fifty cents for instance — per capita. The hostess must furnish an itemized account of the cost of the lunch, mentioning the amount of the different ingredients used, flour, butter, etc., and the price of each. The variety and excellence of the bills of fare is often surprising. Each housekeeper tries, in a spirit of friendly rivalry, to surpass her neighbors. Everyone receives a practical lesson in economy and much ingenuity is developed. One important factor is commonly overlooked and that is the time consumed in the

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preparation of the meal. Labor is the most expensive of all commodities in twentieth century America. We see this plainly, whenever the bill of a carpenter or other artisan is presented to us for payment. The cost of the material used is nothing compared to the price charged for the labor. We have happily reversed the conditions of the "Song of the Shirt," where bread was so dear and flesh and blood so terribly cheap. We have certainly done so, so far as adults are concerned. It is greatly to be feared that the cheapness of child labor is still a threatening evil in our midst.

Our young housekeeper, if she means to be truly up to date, must allow the value of the time spent to appear in her calculation of costs. It is not good domestic economy to save five cents in the price of an article, if this entails the expenditure of twenty-five cents worth of time in its preparation. Just here, another very important question comes in, namely that of the condition and purity of materials. The pure food crusade has proved clearly that in our anxiety to save time and money, we have often accepted

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cheap substitutes for standard articles, and used ready-made brands sadly lacking in wholesome qualities.

A PURE FOOD LUNCH

furnishes an important lesson in hygiene and gives the good housewife an opportunity to show the superiority of home-made soups, salad dressing, jellies, etc., to the once popular canned goods. To get up such a meal requires some study. If the hostess belongs to a woman's club, she can easily procure documents warning her against the snags in her path. Or she may consult the librarian in charge of the nearest public library. The revelations as to the deleterious elements contained in many food-stuffs, especially those of brilliant color, will horrify her. She should look carefully at all bottled and canned articles, to see if they have the proper label, "Guaranteed under the Pure Food and Drugs Act." For butter, milk, etc., she must usually rely on local inspection. In towns of good size, there is, in some states at least, a list of milkmen

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whose wares come up to the required standard. This is published by the local board of health. The Consumers' League which has branches in many places, would be glad to give information. The giver of the Pure Food Lunch should satisfy herself by personal inspection that her grocer keeps his fruit and vegetables in a clean place, and not exposed on the sidewalk, where dust and germs fly about.

In order to have an agreeable occasion, all conversation on the subject of eatables and drinkables must be strictly prohibited while the meal is in progress. After the guests have adjourned to the drawing-room, the bill of fare can be advantageously discussed. The recommendations should be positive rather than negative. It is pleasanter to dwell on the good things one has found, rather than on the bad ones happily avoided. For a Pure Food Lunch given in the country, the menu should consist principally of eggs and dairy products, fruit and vegetables. Chickens from one's own or one's neighbor's farm and not from the Cold Storage Warehouse, would furnish all

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the meat necessary. In making the researches necessary for the preparation of such a lunch, our housewife would learn an invaluable lesson. If conditions were found to be bad in the community, steps would be taken to improve them. Perhaps a town improvement society would be formed, or a local board of health appointed by the authorities.

While we are finding out the dangers of certain old economies, the fertile brains of modern inventors are constantly bringing new ones within our reach. The heatless cooker and the thermo save not only fuel and ice, but time and strength. For those who do their own work or who are fortunate enough to have intelligent assistants, this new cooker is a profitable investment, we learn on good authority. The owner of one, after she had become sufficiently familiar with the workings of her new purchase, could well invite her friends to

A MAGIC SUPPER

Surely to set before your guests a number of dishes cooked without fuel, comes very

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near to dealing with witchcraft. The shades to the candles and gas or electric globes, should be blue in order to produce a weird, mysterious light. The central decoration should be a three-legged pot to simulate a witch's cauldron. This should be suspended from three sticks, camping fashion. A few joss-sticks burning inside the pot and sending up fragrant smoke, add to the quaint effect. Some tiny pieces of wood, mingled with red tinsel or illuminated with a red electric bulb, may represent the witch's fire. An effective centrepiece may be made of white paper, with bats and owls painted for a border. The name cards should bear pictures of a Salem witch flying through the air on the traditional broomstick. Snap-dragon, i. e. almonds and raisins in a dish with burning brandy, or plum pudding with the same accompaniment, is appropriate to the Magic Supper. Or fairies may be substituted for witches. A fairy pool is easily constructed from a mirror surrounded with ferns. Paper butterflies may perch here and there, and tiny dolls with gauze skirts and wands may represent the fairies. Small

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electric bulbs or Christmas tree candles give the effect of glow-worms amid the greenery. Where the Magic Supper is not too expensive in its appointments, it makes a new variety of Poverty Lunch. In addition to using the fireless cooker, the hostess may farther demonstrate her economy of time by the employment of a patent bread-mixer and other labor-saving devices. If we can save human labor, without sacrificing the excellence of the result, we practise the best kind of economy and produce a poverty lunch that is really worth while. Instead of rehearsing the small cost of her materials, the hostess can give the number of minutes occupied in the preparation of the meal and so far as possible, in that of each dish.

Among the new features of the hospitality of the present day, the hiring of professional entertainers to amuse the company, at dinners, receptions and other occasions in private houses, should be mentioned here. I have spoken of it with more detail in the chapter on agreeable dinners. The mania for novelty is most prevalent among those with whom amusement is a large part of the

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business of life and it sometimes leads to regrettable results. At a recent ball, a number of large and wonderfully beautiful butterflies brought from the Tropics, were suddenly let loose. The poor creatures, dazzled by the electric lights, flew against these only to fall bruised and battered on the shoulders and gay toilettes of the guests. A still more ambitious host freed a flock of hummingbirds to "Make a Roman holiday!" It would seem to be of little use to preach to our children, about the wickedness of cruelty to animals, if such unfeeling sports are allowed to go unrebuked.

The introduction of a troupe of professional negro minstrels to amuse the company at a wedding, is another novelty which does not recommend itself to sober-minded people. Marriage is too serious a matter to be entered upon with such burlesque accompaniments. A wedding should certainly be a joyous occasion, but the impressive features of the marriage ceremony should not be associated with a form of amusement so lacking in dignity as the ordinary minstrel show.

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CHAPTER XXI

THE STRANGER WITHIN OUR GATES

HOSPITALITY toward the stranger dates back to the dawn of civilization itself. In the early, barbarous days of primitive man, our savage ancestors fought with all comers, it is now supposed. A scientific man wrote not long since, "It was less dangerous for the nomad to seek refuge in the caves which monsters haunted, than to demand hospitality of the ferocious host of the forest — man." The dark saying of the grim old Romans, "Man is a wolf to man," was doubtless a legacy from these early dreadful days.

When the human race began to emerge from barbarism, all this was greatly modified. Clearly there could be no human intercourse, no travelling about the world, no

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trade of any sort, if every man's hand was against his brother man. Hence hospitality is one of the earliest acts of civilized society, or we might almost say, its foundation stone. In ancient times it was considered a part of religion. In Greece the roads were all held sacred and the man who passed over them was the guest of the land. He could, if he desired, partake of the offerings of food placed before the statues of Hermes and other tutelary deities of the wayside. Violation of the duties of hospitality might provoke the wrath of the gods, the stranger being under the especial protection of Zeus himself.

Beautiful indeed was the view of the unknown visitor, which originated in the mystic Orient thousands of years ago. He was held to be a supernatural being whom it was an honor to entertain. This theory is charmingly set forth in the quaint old story of the Angel Gabriel and his visits to two brothers. The first was very devout; he had lived as a hermit devoting his time to contemplation for forty years. The visit of the angel disturbed him in his meditations. Hence he

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did not receive the latter cordially, merely offering him some fruit and a place on his mat of rushes. Then he returned to his contemplation of higher things. Now the other brother was a robber by profession. He received Gabriel with great hospitality, despite the difficulties made by his celestial visitor, who refused all food, saying he had sworn to dine only on seven hearts. The bandit slew his five goats to procure the desired dish, but still the guest declined to eat since two were wanting. The robber then killed his children to make up the missing number of hearts. In spite of this tragedy the story ends well. The angel brings the children back to life and pardons all the crimes of his host, graciously adding, "You will enter heaven with the rank of a saint of the seventh class." To the pious but grudging brother, God sent word that his piety was in vain, without the exercise of hospitality.

In our modern industrial and commercial civilization, it is not possible for us to entertain all guests from foreign countries in accordance with the old Oriental idea. The

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establishment of hotels which exercise a professional hospitality, is a necessity in all thickly settled communities. Yet we still retain the old desire to show our good-will to the stranger within our gates, although we may manifest it in new ways. The idea of hospitality has broadened and deepened since the nations of the world have come into so much closer touch through latter day inventions. Railroads and steamships, the telegraph, the telephone and the motor-car bring us into connection not with a few individuals, but with whole nations. The daily papers, our own travels and the visits of countless strangers from other lands, enlarge the scope of our thoughts and prevent our minds from dwelling complacently as of old, in the little world of our own country, to the exclusion in a great degree of other lands. Whether we are conscious of it or not, we are coming more and more to show hospitality to the ideas of other nations, to revise that view of patriotism which made it consist in loving our own country and disliking or distrusting all others. Instead of regarding a Frenchman or a German as a

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hopeless foreigner, whose opinions are not like ours and therefore all wrong, we are becoming interested in his point of view and glad to have him explain to us his theories and his reasons for holding them. Our hospitality is thus becoming more national and less individual. And here we surpass the English, who entertain individuals with cordiality, but maintain an insular reserve toward, not to say dislike for, other nations. Hence visitors to the British Isles may return to this country, greatly pleased with their kind reception by certain families, but firmly convinced that Englishmen in general are unfriendly to Americans.

As we are a young nation, we naturally display more openness of mind and the tremendous influx of foreigners upon our shores, gives us an object lesson we cannot wholly neglect. In order to show hospitality to the stranger in accordance with the ideas of the twentieth century, we must cultivate a spirit of international comity and good-will and we must modify the tendency to make the American eagle scream, in the presence of the natives of other lands.

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Matthew Arnold says that all praises of ourselves by ourselves, are provincial and retarding. In these days we shudder at the very thought of provincialism; but there is another extreme which is even worse, because it savors of disloyalty. To depreciate and abuse one's native land and its institutions, while bestowing excessive admiration on those of other countries, is to do a very foolish thing and one that pleases nobody. The man who shows neither love nor veneration for the land of his birth, is usually despised by his fellow countrymen and by foreigners alike.

In welcoming the foreign visitor, we should not be too eager to learn his opinion of ourselves and our national customs. If this is not altogether favorable, it may embarrass him to answer our questions at once truthfully and politely, while we display a lack of reserve and dignity, by an over-anxiety to learn what others think of us. One should avoid the brutality of the direct challenge, "What do you think about America?" or "How do you like the United States?" It is easy to lead the conversation

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in such a direction that the guest may have an opportunity to express his opinion, without being forced to do so. It is surely very unreasonable to ask a man what his views are, and then take offence if they do not please us; yet this is very apt to be the result of these naïve questionings. The person who makes them is often so filled with admiration himself, that he thinks everyone else must share his feelings. Hence his queries are, perhaps unconsciously to himself, simply a bid for sympathy and praise.

For similar reasons, we must avoid expressing too freely our opinions of the stranger's country, unless we know him well enough to feel sure this will not be disagreeable to him. It is usually safe to begin with the things for which one can sincerely express admiration. On subjects where one is doubtful of the views of one's guest, it is wisest to give him an opening, in case he should care to state his opinion, without obliging him to do so by a direct question. One should avoid speaking of public scandals with a foreigner. In his heart he may entirely agree with you in condemning

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these, but it will be painful to him to admit the existence of such evils in his beloved country, especially when he is far away from it. Clearly international hospitality demands tact and delicacy of feeling, yet it often gives great pleasure and profit to host and guest alike, and ever tends to strengthen the ties that unite nations and help to bring "Peace on Earth, Good-will toward Men."

It is in accordance with Anglo-Saxon ideas of hospitality to entertain the stranger in one's own abode, if this can be managed. Perhaps he brings a letter of introduction from a friend who has shown hospitality to us. In this case we are anxious to entertain him in order to show our gratitude, as well as for his own sake. It is important to call at once and to offer any civility in our power promptly, as his stay may be very brief. If the host's household is so mounted as to enable him to ask the guest from over seas to make a visit, this is always the greatest attention one can pay. One would hesitate to do this if one were living in a way very different from that to which the stranger

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was accustomed. In a word, the question would arise, "Can we make this gentleman comfortable, or is our simple style of living in too great contrast to his usual surroundings?" If the host is living at a hotel or in an apartment house, he probably will not have room for ceremonious visitors. He will be obliged to content himself with inviting the bearer of the letter to dine or lunch with him, either at his own dwelling or at his club, and with showing the stranger such other attentions as lie in his power.

Travellers are not all alike in their tastes. Some are especially interested in charitable institutions, others in mercantile, civil or political affairs, in architecture, art or simply in social doings. It is well to inquire what the especial preferences of one's guest are, and then to gratify them so far as possible. An important part of international hospitality is the bringing the foreigner into relations with the people who can best help him to find out or see the things he cares most for. If he is an author, he will wish to meet other literary men; if he is a philanthropist, he will want to see persons engaged

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in similar work. He will probably enjoy meeting other people also, because one grows very tired of consorting always with those of one's own profession or especial line of business.

A kind and energetic host takes great pains to start a visitor from foreign parts, on the right path. He not only puts him up at his own club and introduces him to persons in his own town or city, he also gives him letters of introduction to friends in other parts of the country. He will be careful however, not to make overdrafts on the hospitality of others, nor to ask serious-minded and busy men and women to give time and thought to frivolous young people or tiresome old persons, occupied principally in amusing themselves. Ordinarily one gives letters of introduction only to those on whom one has some claim. Since the stranger within our gates is in a sense a national guest, we feel greater freedom in introducing him to our fellow countrymen, than we would in presenting the latter as candidates for hospitality, were they travellers in a foreign land. We know that

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other Americans will be glad to join with us in entertaining a distinguished and agreeable visitor or a person gathering information about our common country.

As a rule, travellers like to see the distinctly national institutions in a foreign land, and the features of especial local interest. A great deal of fun has been made of the Englishman who said to the poet Longfellow: "As there are no old ruins in your country, I thought I would come to see you." Making due allowance for the bluntness of British speech, one sees that he simply meant to express his desire to see whatever of interest the country afforded.

A little tact is sometimes needed in displaying national relics to the natives of other lands. We are all duly proud of the mementoes of the American Revolution scattered over the face of the country, but we cannot expect the Briton to look upon these with feelings of pleasure. Leaving the rights and wrongs of the question wholly out of consideration, these monuments must remind him of the loss of one of the fairest portions of the British Empire, through the

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obstinacy of a King imported from Germany. Fortunately we can all unite now in laying the blame on George the Third, and so save the situation.

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CHAPTER XXII

HOSPITALITY IN MODERN EUROPE

THE delights of foreign travel are now known to a great and constantly increasing number of our people. We enjoy and strive to appreciate the matchless treasures of Art, the wonderful historical monuments which are the proud boast of the Old World. Yet in the midst of all these pleasures, we are not quite satisfied and long to see something of the domestic life of the people among whom we wander as strangers in a strange land. We know this to be an object very difficult of attainment; we realize that the inhabitants of European countries could not accomplish much else, if they spent their time in dispensing hospitality to the army of travelling Americans. Nevertheless we should so like to have a peep inside those

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dwellings, where live men and women like ourselves, more interesting to us, we feel at moments, than all the dead bricks and mortar in the whole world.

When we travel in the British Isles, we are more likely to have opportunities for gratifying this natural and, let us hope, humane curiosity, than on the Continent of Europe. In addition to the bonds of a common language and race that unite us to the English, we share with them the traditions of Anglo-Saxon hospitality, which differ widely from the ideas of the Latin nations. The latter are much more chary of inviting strangers to their homes than the Teutonic races are. Neither fully appreciates the point of view of the other. The Latin thinks the Anglo-Saxon suffers too readily the intrusion of outsiders within the sacred circle of family life. We retort by saying that he has no word for home and lives too much away from it, to understand what it means to those who love to abide by their own hearthstone. The difference of the point of view may be thought to arise from the traditional attitude of the two races toward women.

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With all his exquisite sentiment and gallantry toward the fair sex, the Frenchman has never trusted women as the Teuton has. His very admiration for them, the fascination which they exercise over him makes him regard them as sorceresses to whose wiles all must succumb. In a word, he takes an Oriental rather than an Occidental view of them and his unwillingness to admit outsiders into his home circle, seems like a faint echo of the seclusion of the harem. In the proverbial jealousy of the Spaniard, the Oriental feeling is much more strongly accentuated, doubtless owing to the traditions left behind by the long Moorish occupation.

The surest passport to foreign hospitality is the letter of introduction, to which we alluded briefly in the last chapter. If we go abroad well provided with these letters, we may hope that some doors at least will open for us. The genuine ones are veritable open sesames, as valuable as precious stones, and those who understand their worth do not ask for them lightly. Such a letter is in reality a sight draft on the Bank of Hospitality and no one has a right to make it, unless he

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knows that there are funds to meet it. In a word, I have no right to indite a letter to the native of a foreign country, asking him to "do what he can" (a thinly disguised bid for hospitality) for my friend, the bearer of the missive, unless that foreigner has received from me or mine, such hospitality or other kindness as to lay him under obligation to make us a return. I have stated this in a very bald and commercial way, because the rules governing international comity are not always clearly understood by Americans. Too often travellers ask friends or acquaintances, on whom they have no valid claim, for letters to persons living in European countries. It is sometimes awkward to refuse such a request, and letters may be given which are practically valueless. The Frenchman who receives an epistle of this sort will probably be too polite to say so, but he will not feel called upon to honor it, save in a perfunctory way. Bearers of letters which are thus received, can usually infer that these were drafts on the Bank of Hospitality where no funds existed to meet them. Even where the letters are honored,

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the American must not be surprised if the kindness shown does not include what we may call "Household Hospitality." A lady and gentleman met not long ago, while travelling in the Low Countries, a bachelor friend who had been frequently entertained by the lady's family during his stay in America. They were delighted at the fortunate meeting and said to each other, "Now we shall see something of these charming Dutch interiors." The bachelor seemed equally pleased and at once arranged a trip to a museum in the town. Our friends supposed the excursion would certainly be made in a cab, hack hire being very cheap in that part of the world. But no, the party went by trolley and the foreigner kindly waited outside while his American friends went into the museum, paying their own entrance fee! Various other excursions of pleasure were arranged, all on the same frugal scale. On one great occasion, the excellent Dutchman took his charges to a restaurant and treated them to a tiny glass of liqueur apiece, flanked by a couple of biscuits. The Americans, who had

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indulged fond hopes of seeing their friend's home and of being presented to his old Mother, were naturally disappointed but greatly amused. Yet their foreign friend was not lacking in gratitude and at his death, left a handsome legacy to the children of his American entertainers.

It might seem at first blush to be a small thing, to ask a friend in the United States for a letter to a member of her family living in some European country. This is entirely proper in many cases. We must remember that Americans residing in foreign capitals are often overwhelmed with domiciliary visits from an army of tourists, now that ocean travel has become almost universal. A lady may ask a friend for a letter to her daughter living in London or Rome, but she should have too much mercy on her exiled countrywoman to ask the favor for a friend unknown both to the writer and to the recipient of the letter. To request me to show hospitality to the friend of a friend of my Mother, an entirely unknown person with whom I may have no bond of sympathy or mutual liking, is unreasonable, and yet

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this is sometimes thoughtlessly done. The best way to present a letter of introduction is to leave it in person with one's visiting card, making no request however, to see the lady of the house. She will make the return call speedily, for visiting conventions are thoroughly organized and carefully carried out by the European, although his ideas of hospitality may not be as generous as those of the American. Or a letter of introduction may be sent by mail.

Our people have such an inordinate social thirst that our diplomatic and consular representatives in European capitals are fairly bombarded at times, with requests for presentation at court and invitations to festivities in distinguished and exclusive circles. Manifestly these would cease to be exclusive, were every one admitted to them, and our representatives must use their best judgment as to granting or refusing these requests. Since the number of invitations at their disposal is limited, no offence should be taken if one's application is not granted. The stories of our countrymen and women, who push in where they are not wanted, are such

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as to make the rest of us feel mortified. If four go to a function to which only two of the family are asked, Frenchmen or Spaniards may be too polite to say anything to the intruders; but they will not fail to make unfavorable comment among themselves, on the extraordinary vulgarity of such a proceeding. Travellers who accept foreign hospitality should remember that they represent their own country in a certain sense, hence they should be especially careful about their dress, manners and general behavior. We may think the aristocratic conventions of monarchical countries quite absurd, but if we accept invitations to enter a society where these prevail, we must conform to its rules or appear ignorant and ill-bred. I may think myself quite as good as a duchess; but if I am asked to dine in her company, I must always allow her to precede me and I must not think of going home before she does, as it is the privilege of the person of highest rank to break up the ball. One must also be punctilious about calling promptly in acknowledgment of invitations.

The feeing of servants is such a fixed cus-

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tom abroad that it cannot be ignored. In our own fortunate country, where high wages are paid, the case is very different; but in Europe, domestics are not so well recompensed as they are with us. We do not begrudge them that which is in reality a part of their wages, though we may think it undignified for rich men and women to permit their servants to levy a heavy tax on all their visitors. It is in reality a survival of brigandage or highway robbery in a genteel form, and is only tolerated because of the difficulty of getting rid of long established custom. Let us by all means keep it out of our own country just as much as we can, while we conform to it in Europe, because it is not our business to begin domestic reforms in foreign lands. The fees expected in the houses of the English aristocracy are so large that people of moderate means can hardly afford to stay at these great establishments. It is cheaper to go to a hotel! Before making such a visit, it is well to inquire of some English friend what the exact "tariff" is, because for the sake of all concerned, it is best not to in-

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crease the charge, as an American of the extravagant type might do. On the Continent the fees are more moderate, though perhaps quite as universal. For a guest who dines out, to be expected to look up the cook and give her a remembrance, seems to us an extraordinary thing, yet American ladies living in certain towns of Germany, have become familiar with this singular custom.

Society in the capital cities of Europe is more cosmopolitan than with us. An American who is well-bred and agreeable and who brings good letters, may be invited to many smart functions, if he comes to London, Paris or Rome in the gay season. In all these cities there is an American colony large enough to form an important element in society. Travellers from the United States who make a stay of several weeks or months, may hope to see something of their compatriots, even though they fail to make the acquaintance of many natives of the country. The woman who is travelling for pleasure must remember that everyone does not share her holiday. Her fellow countrywomen domiciled in a foreign city, often

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have their time fully occupied. In all probability they will have their own circle of friends to visit, just as they would have, if living in their own country. They may often be glad to see some one who has recently left their dear native land, to learn the last news from over the sea, to welcome a compatriot and to give her advice or assistance, if she stands in real need of either. But the traveller must not be too exacting in her demands, for her name is now legion.

It is usual for the official representative of the United States, Ambassador or Minister as the case may be, to remain "At home" one afternoon in the week. Visiting Americans are privileged to call at this time, although it is not usual to go more than once, unless especially invited to do so or unless an acquaintance already exists between the parties. These visits are returned by a secretary or attaché, who leaves the cards of his chief. It would manifestly be impossible for the latter to return in person all the calls which he receives, sometimes several hundred in a single day.

It is often pleasant and convenient to

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establish friendly relations with the consular representatives of our country, who are stationed in all cities and large towns. This must be carefully and tactfully done. An experienced traveller of my acquaintance makes a practice of calling upon the consul and of inviting him to dine. It need hardly be said that their countrymen have no real claim upon the time or services of these officials, except in cases of actual difficulty or danger. Some travellers would seem to imagine that the consuls in foreign ports have nothing to do but to attend to their affairs, and often call upon these gentlemen for all sorts of services which it is no part of their business to perform. Said a consular representative to a clever American lady with whom he had formed an agreeable acquaintance, "I shall hope to see you again, Mrs. X, and shall be glad to do anything for you that lies in my power, *but pray don't send for me if you lose your cotton umbrella!*"

The traveller who is entertained in England may be asked to stay at a country house or to lunch or dine out. If he visits

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the countries of Southern Europe, the hospitality shown him will probably not be in either of these forms, nor need he expect such a display of food as he would see in England or the United States. Prudence and moderation in eating and drinking are found to be most important for the preservation of the health in warm climates and Southern peoples are much more abstemious than their Northern neighbors. In Italy evening receptions are the fashionable form of entertainment. Social leaders are "At home" once, twice or three times a week. In Rome, one old lady of rank receives every evening from eleven o'clock till midnight. The chief literary salon in the Eternal City, is that of a Princess who is at home every Sunday evening throughout the year. At receptions of this sort, the refreshments served are very simple, lemonade and biscuits or perhaps nothing at all. Sponge cake and wine are considered rather luxurious. More gentlemen than ladies come to these occasions, for in Europe men occupy themselves with the business of society much more than they do in the United States.

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It is usual for ladies to have also an afternoon at home, a certain day being retained in one family for half a century sometimes! To these afternoons all friends are privileged to go, from time to time, without receiving especial cards or invitations. A travelling American would not of course be at liberty to do so, unless especially invited or unless taken by a friend who had the entrée.

The promptness with which gentlemen call is rather surprising to newcomers. It is the custom for a gentleman who has been introduced to a lady, to leave a card at her residence the next day. Her husband or brother returns the call at once, if the acquaintance is desired. Where a party of ladies are travelling without masculine escort, the mother or chaperon will invite the gentleman to call, dine or take afternoon tea, if she wishes to continue the acquaintance.

In Paris, the American Students' Club is a centre of hospitality for our countrywomen of studious tastes, literary, artistic or musical. The hospitality is very simple; it takes the form of afternoon tea, to which

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American ladies are at liberty to come occasionally. It is not the thing to go often and thus wear out one's welcome. The five o'clock tea has become justly popular with the French, who have manufactured a new verb to express it; "*Fivo'clockettez-vous?*" they will ask. It affords an admirable background for the delicious little fancy cakes of which the French are so fond. Italians and Spaniards like it also, indeed this genial and mild form of dissipation seems to be what little Lord Fauntleroy would call "A universal favorite."

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CHAPTER XXIII

OUTGROWN IDEALS OF HOSPITALITY

WHEN General Francis Marion, the noted partisan leader of the Revolutionary War, took command of his little band of refugees, in the forests of South Carolina, he was seen to limp slightly. A few months before this time, he had been a guest at a wine party at Charleston where the host had locked the door and put the key in his pocket, so that no one could escape. This was quite in accord with the convivial ideas of the time, but it did not suit our hero, whose temperate views were doubtless inherited from his Huguenot ancestors. He jumped from the window to the ground, injuring his ankle, and was obliged to leave Charleston soon afterward, as only the able-bodied were permitted to remain in the be-

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leaguered city. The Swamp Fox thus escaped the fate of his fellow officers, who were constrained to surrender themselves soon after to the British Sumter, with the tears running down his face.

This story is typical of the old views of hospitality. "Ead blendy, ead blendy, B——, dere's blendy more in de bandry," said a rich and hospitable American of foreign descent, to a relative at a party in the early days of the nineteenth century. Another hostess of generous inclinations wished to provide so much for her guests that her daughters reasoned with her. "Why Mother, nobody could possibly eat any more," they remonstrated. To which the witty hostess replied, "Oh my dears, I should like to ram it down with a spoon."

Many of us can remember when this attitude of mind was prevalent among kind-hearted and generous hosts. The guest was to be treated like the Strasburg geese. The little boy in "Punch" who felt, after dinner, as if his jacket was buttoned, was typical of some of us, after visiting certain well-remembered houses. There was no escape

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from the urgency of the lady who, with the most benevolent intentions, piled up our plates with ice cream until we nearly slid off the slippery hair-cloth chairs on which it was so difficult for little people with short legs to sit, especially after becoming gorged like anacondas!

This idea of profusion and abundance as an essential part of hospitality, comes down to us from very early times. Every school girl knows what prodigies of gluttony marked the feasts of the ancient Romans. Egyptian hieroglyphics give us wonderful glimpses into the rich resources of their kitchens, and of the sumptuous banquets of those who dwelt beside the Nile, thousands of years ago. Our fairy stories repeat the same idea of the delights of endless eating and drinking — fountains that run with wine and mountains of sugar candy, dazzle the imagination of the youthful reader.

The increase of wealth in our own land and in other civilized countries, has changed the general point of view. Every one has enough to eat if not too much, every day, while the beneficent operations of modern

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commerce prevent the possibility of famine, except in some case of sudden disaster. The relentless logic of modern science has given another blow to the old theories. The supreme importance of being "Well-nourished" was formerly the excuse for pressing upon our friends a large quantity of food. Now the doctors unkindly say that we all eat too much, preaching moderation and simplicity. They go farther in many cases, as we all know to our sorrow, and prescribe a rigid diet from which most of the good things of life are severely excluded. All this has had a great effect on the relations of host and guest. It is now considered a mistake to urge one's friends to eat and especially to eat of a particular dish. If Jones has been told by his doctor that he must eat no red meat, it will mortify him if his hostess calls the attention of the whole table to his idiosyncrasies of diet by saying,

"Why dear Mr. Jones, you are not eating a single mouthful! I'm afraid you don't like your dinner — won't you have a piece that is better done?"

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This to poor Jones, who has been flattering himself that no one has noticed his gouty tendencies! Or to take another instance, Mr. Goldenmouth, the popular diner-out, may find it disagrees with him badly to eat all the courses at the numerous banquets which he attends. He may find it better for his health to take a simple meal before he leaves home, or to eat very sparingly at the houses of his entertainers. To him the vigilant hostess of the old-fashioned type, is a constant terror. He goes to her dinner for the pleasure of seeing his hosts and of meeting interesting people. Yet all the time he is afraid that she will be hurt or offended at his failure to eat or drink something which has been forbidden by his medical adviser or by his own common sense.

While it is no longer considered "Good form" for the host to play the part of a benevolent despot, we would not be understood to counsel neglect of a guest's comfort or happiness. At a dinner party he must be left to his own devices, but where he is staying in the house, or is taking a quiet family meal, a tactful hostess will try

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to see that he has such food as he prefers, without calling general attention to his likes and dislikes, or asking for an explanation of them.

It is not in matters relating to the table alone that the modern host allows his guest to enjoy greater freedom than was formerly customary. In the disposition of his time, it is now thought best, as we have seen elsewhere, to permit a visitor to do very much as he likes, while offering him opportunities for amusement and suggesting plans without insisting on their fulfilment. In a word, the modern host takes the visits of his friends more easily and naturally than his nineteenth-century predecessor did. There is greater frankness also about the length of the stay. We do not now think it necessary to urge our guests to remain longer, as a matter of politeness, when we are quite willing in reality to have the visit terminate. Neither do we repeatedly urge them to sing or to display their other accomplishments, when they have once declined to do so.

Another outgrown ideal of hospitality is that of the right of the casual visitor to take

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up the time of the host, regardless of the engagements and occupations of the latter. A woman of old-fashioned views will perhaps be on the point of starting to keep an appointment, when a caller is announced. Feeling that hospitality is her first duty, she will descend to the drawing-room and remain chatting half an hour with her visitor, while half a dozen other women are waiting for her at some committee meeting.

Far be it from us to advise the desertion of home and friends for outside matters, but modern thought recognizes the imperative importance of keeping engagements, especially where we waste the time of a number of other persons by our failure to meet our obligations. In such a case the wise course would be to greet the friend with all cordiality and to explain to her that one is obliged to go at once to keep an engagement. Or word to that effect may be sent down by another member of the family or by a servant. The stereotyped phrase "Not at home" has the advantage of saving all these complications; but, while it is thoroughly understood in large cities, in the country and in

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small places people hesitate to use it, as it seems lacking in cordiality.

The old-fashioned spirit of hospitality was certainly beautiful and it would be a thousand pities to lose it, while we recognize that its outward expression must necessarily change with altered conditions of life. We wish to give a cordial welcome to all the friends who come to our doors; even if we ourselves are obliged at the moment to go out, it is usually possible to ask them to rest and refresh themselves at our fireside, especially if they have come from a distance. In nine cases out of ten they will not wish to do so, but it is always pleasant to have the hospitality of the roof-tree offered to one.

A gentleman of Southern extraction and traditions went several miles into the country to call upon cousins living near a large Northern city. Great was his rage and indignation on seeing his relatives flee one after another from the piazza, at his approach. In vain did they seek to appease him by inviting him formally to High Tea, not long afterwards. He could not get over the shock given to his feelings by the sight

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of the fleeing figures, and was cruel enough to say:

"Now run away, run away, all of you! Don't you see me coming?"

The gracious word of welcome at the moment of arrival, is a feature of hospitality which never goes out of fashion. The guest who receives a cordial greeting, a warm pressure of the hand, will overlook many shortcomings, for these assure us of the human affection and fellowship which we long for most, and prize above all other things.

THE END.

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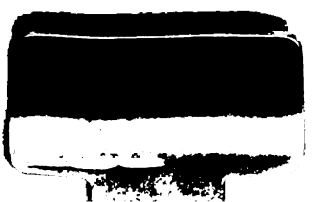
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